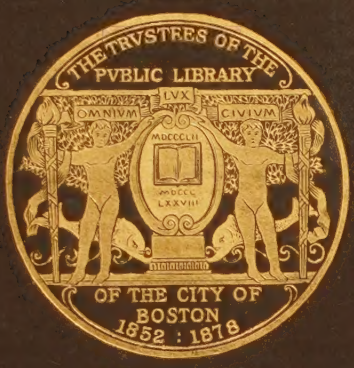
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THE COPLEY SQUARE BUILDING

LOCATION OF LIBRARY SINCE 1895

THE COPLEY SQUARE BUILDING.

Location of Library since 1895. Architects, McKim, Mead & White. Facades constructed of Milford (Mass.) granite, with free use on the interior of Siena, Numidian, Échaillon, Georgian, and other marbles, and of stone. Mural decorations on the interior by John S. Sargent, Edwin A. Abbey, Puvis de Chavannes, and John Elliott; decorative painting by Elmer E. Garnsey and Joseph Lindon Smith; statuary (on main stairway) by Louis Saint-Gaudens; bronze entrance doors by Daniel C. French; Library seal over main entrance by Augustus Saint-Gaudens; medallions sculptured in the spandrels of principal window arches by Domingo Mora. The pedestal blocks flanking main entrance will carry statuary by Bela L. Pratt.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF

THE CITY OF BOSTON

A HISTORY

BY

HORACE G. WADLIN, Litt.D.
LIBRARIAN

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, PRINTED
AT THE LIBRARY AND PUBLISHED
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Putnam, George, D.D., 1868–77.
Richards, William Reuben, 1889–95.
Shurtleff, Hon. Nathaniel Bradstreet, 1852–67.
Thomas, Benjamin Franklin, LL.D., 1877–78.
Ticknor, George, LL.D., 1852–66.
Walker, Francis Amasa, LL.D., 1896.
Whipple, Edwin Pevey, 1867–70.
Whitmore, William Henry, 1885–88.
Winsor, Justin, LL.D., 1867–68.

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INTRODUCTION.

During the first half of the nineteenth century the improvement in social conditions in this country was accompanied by an intellectual awakening. The public school had become firmly established, and a reading public was slowly forming. The craving for knowledge, under the inspiration of the modern scientific spirit grew constantly stronger, and the scholar gradually acquired a wider influence in the life of the people.

Various proprietary libraries had been established in different parts of the country, and by the middle of the century Massachusetts contained 78 such libraries of various kinds, comprising in all about 200,000 volumes. Harvard College Library at Cambridge contained at that time 72,000 volumes, and the library of the Boston Athenæum about 60,000. But even these were very deficient in many departments. The need of better facilities for literary research was felt, and a movement had begun for the establishment of libraries for the people, under conditions much more liberal than then existed, as an extension of the public educational system. In March, 1849, the British House of Commons appointed a special committee to report on the best means of "extending the establishment of libraries freely open to the public, especially in large towns in Great Britain and Ireland." The

favorable report of this committee was reviewed at length in the *North American Review,* and this undoubtedly affected public opinion here.

In a small way, however, the agitation in favor of the public library as a municipal institution, supported out of the tax-levy, had already found concrete expression. The free town library of Peterborough, New Hampshire, now recognized as the first free public library supported by a municipal tax among English-speaking people, was established August 9, 1833, without any specific legal basis for the tax. The town of Orange, in Massachusetts, established such a library in 1846, Wayland in 1850, and possibly there were others. In Wayland, the question of raising money by taxation for libraries was brought forward, and for the moment avoided by the expedient of making the burden voluntary instead of compulsory.

A bill broad enough to legalize such taxation and to provide for the continuous management of such libraries, introduced in the Legislature by Rev. John B. Wight, Member of the House from Wayland, became a law in 1851. This was not the first statute, however. A similar law was passed in New Hampshire, in July, 1849. In April, 1849, in Massachusetts, an Act relating to school libraries, Chapter 81, of 1849, became a law. This had been introduced by Mr. Coggin of Tewksbury, and provided that: "The inhabitants of any school district in any city or town, and of any city or town not divided into school districts, in this Commonwealth,

may, at any meeting called for that purpose, raise money for the purchase of libraries . . . in the same manner as school districts may now raise money for erecting and repairing school houses in their respective districts."

This superseded an earlier Act, Chapter 147, of 1837, which gave authority to raise money by taxation for *school* libraries in school districts. In the later statute the word "school" as a restriction upon the kind of library that was authorized was omitted, and the limitation as to school districts was removed. This would seem to have been broad enough to authorize a public library.

The law of 1851, was more explicit, however, and its purpose was clearly stated. It provided that "Any city or town of this Commonwealth is hereby authorized to establish and maintain a public library within the same, with or without branches, for the use of the inhabitants thereof, under such regulations for the government of such library as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the City Council of such city, or the inhabitants of such town."

Provision was made for receiving and applying bequests and gifts for such libraries. The Act limited the appropriation for the foundation of the library to one dollar for each ratable poll in the year preceding that in which the first appropriation was made, and also limited the annual appropriations for maintenance and increase to 25 cents for each ratable poll. The limitations were removed in subsequent years.

The Public Library of the City of Boston, was, however, the first large city library to be established as a municipal institution, upon a plan identical with that of the public libraries of to-day. It rests upon special legislation which antedated the general laws, and its founders exhibited a breadth of view which justly entitles them to be called the fathers of the public library movement. Although it was largely experimental in the beginning, its influence has been widely felt; and the account of its origin and development, contained in the following pages, not only affords a profitable subject of study, but the character of the institution justifies the detailed presentation of its history. Those who are familiar with matters that have now become commonplace in library administration, will recognize the part that has been taken by the library in Boston in following untried paths, and in establishing precedent. The results accomplished, both direct and indirect, constitute an important element in the municipal progress of the last 50 years.

CHAPTER I.

IN May, 1839, M. Nicholas Marie Alexandre Vattemare, of France, having devoted 12 years to the establishment of a system of literary exchanges among European libraries and museums, arrived in New York to prosecute his mission in this country. The career of M. Vattemare has been fully traced elsewhere.[1] He was originally a minor actor or impersonator, with much talent as a ventriloquist. His literary bent, however, led him to leave the stage, where he had met with considerable success in various European cities, and to undertake what must have seemed a Quixotic mission, apparently with no thought of pecuniary reward and largely at his own expense. He proposed, as Josiah P. Quincy expresses it, "to devote his time, energy, and property to the introduction of his system of the international exchange of books, and, incidentally, of any products of nature or human skill which might increase knowledge in science or art." According to Mr. Quincy, who knew him well, Vattemare himself said that his system was "designed to give the intellectual treasures of the cultivated world the same dissemination and equalization which commerce has already given to

1 See, particularly, the monograph by Josiah Phillips Quincy, reprinted from the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, November, 1884.

its material ones;" and the outcome was to be "the establishment in every quarter of the world of free libraries and museums ever open to the use of the people."

As a means to this end his prime interest lay in promoting the exchange of literary material between different countries, but upon his arrival in the United States, he found no great public institutions which might receive such treasures as he proposed to bring into the country. Manifestly, the first need was the establishment of such institutions. With great energy he at once began his campaign, visiting Montreal, Quebec, Baltimore, and other cities, everywhere appealing especially to young men of literary tastes, and finally coming to Boston in the spring of 1841. Here, as elsewhere, he succeeded in securing attention. He found here various local libraries, controlled by private associations, and he thought it possible to unite them in one institution upon a much broader basis. On Saturday evening, April 24, a public meeting was held at the rooms of the Mercantile Library Association, for the purpose of considering his plan. At this meeting, Samuel E. Sawyer presided, and Allen Shepard was appointed secretary. Vattemare explained his system fully, and afterward the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That we have listened with great delight to Mr. Vattemare's plan of forming a great public Literary and Scientific Institution in this city, by uniting our various Libraries and collections in science and the Fine Arts; and we think such an Institution would benefit the great body of

NICHOLAS MARIE ALEXANDRE VATTEMARE.

Advocate of the establishment of a public library in Boston. Born in Paris near the close of the eighteenth century. In early life, a student of surgery with some army practice in that profession. Of wide European reputation as a ventriloquist and minor theatrical performer. After 1827 devoted his time and private fortune to the promotion of a system of international exchange of books, and in this connection advocated the establishment of free public libraries and museums in all countries.

Alexandre Vattemare

the people, by opening to all the treasures of Science, Literature and Art, by breaking down the factitious distinctions which separate class from class, by disseminating knowledge and taste through every portion of our population, and by the influence it would have in the promotion of universal education.

RESOLVED, That we regard the system of National Interchange suggested by Mr. Vattemare, as one which will tend to remove national and sectional prejudices, will promote the great cause of peace, and the first principle of religion, by uniting all nations in intellectual brotherhood; as one which by making each state and nation a participant in the other's productions, will bring about a kind of mental commerce which cannot fail to promote universal civilization; and we think that the glorious success which has so far attended Mr. Vattemare's labors in this department of his comprehensive plan, and the general favor with which the system has been received by eminent men in all countries, affords us sufficient assurances that it can be achieved in this City, if the public mind be awakened to a sense of its importance.

RESOLVED, That we most respectfully solicit of those whose age, wisdom, and experience constitute them our guides, to examine Mr. Vattemare's plan, and use their influence and energies to carry it into practical operation; and as young men we pledge ourselves cheerfully to act under their guidance, and endeavor, by every means in our power, to rouse the enthusiasm of those of our own age in support of the great project.

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to those liberal shareholders in the Boston Athenæum, and other libraries in this City, who have generously signified their willingness to relinquish their shares for the public good, and to further Mr. Vattemare's plan by their time, money, and influence.

RESOLVED, That we cordially sympathize with our brethren in other cities — the young men of Montreal, Que-

bec, Baltimore, &c. — who have labored with so much enthusiasm, energy, and success, in establishing institutions similar to that which we desire to see in our own City.

RESOLVED, That as Boston has the reputation of being the first literary city in the Union, it behooves her citizens not to jeopardize that reputation by refusing to do what other cities with less pretensions have triumphantly achieved.

RESOLVED, That Mr. Vattemare's plan having received the encouragement, and been stamped with the approbation of the most eminent sovereigns, statesmen, and literary men of Europe, from the Sultan of Turkey to La Fayette and La Martine — of the President, Chief Justice, and both Houses of Congress of our own country — and moreover as it is a plan, to carry out which all parties, and religions, and sects, cheerfully unite — we may be pardoned in saying — as all the eminent men in this city and vicinity, who have examined its claims, have said — that the plan is practicable, is worthy the attention of every man who has a faculty to educate, or a child whom he desires should grow to the intellectual stature of manhood, is replete with advantages to every person in the community, however humble his station, and should stimulate the zealous, energetic, and persevering exertions of the great body of the people.

RESOLVED, That a Committee of twelve be appointed from this meeting, to correspond with the influential men in the community, for the purpose of soliciting them to call a meeting of the citizens at Faneuil Hall, to consider the subject in all its bearings.

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to Mr. Vattemare for his attendance this evening, and the interesting digest of his plan which he has submitted to us; that we appreciate the truly enlarged philanthropy which has induced him to make so many pecuniary sacrifices, and spend so great a portion of his bodily and mental energies, for the benefit of the great family of nations; and that he has carried his cosmopolitanism to that noble length which shows, in the words of Bacon, that "his heart is not

an island cut off from other men's lands, but a continent which joins to them."

On the seventh of May a second meeting was held, at the Masonic Temple, Jonathan Chapman, the Mayor, presiding, and Edward Stearns acting as secretary. Again M. Vattemare explained his project, and afterward it was resolved to select a committee of five citizens to take into consideration the practicability of his scheme. The following were selected: Dr. Walter Channing, Josiah Quincy, Jr., Rev. Ezra S. Gannett, Rev. George W. Blagden, and Charles F. Adams. The meeting, by resolution, thanked M. Vattemare "for his interesting, instructive, and eloquent exposition of his noble project," and pledged to him its cordial coöperation.

These two meetings embodied the first public expression of the public library movement in Boston, but for a time the enterprise lagged. Vattemare soon after transmitted to the city authorities about 50 volumes as a gift from the City of Paris, and later he renewed the discussion. To some he seemed merely an egotist and enthusiast. Others, however, recognized beneath his somewhat mercurial manner the importance of the idea which moved him. We catch a glimpse of his methods in another paragraph from Quincy:

> The idea of establishing a free library in this City seemed to pervade him to his fingers' ends. He followed it up with a vehemence which might well startle the guardians of the sluggish proprieties. He pursued the Mayor[2] with

2 Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr., father of the writer.

visits and by correspondence; he wrought upon that functionary to make a conditional offer of $5,000 towards providing books for the Library, and to see that a petition was sent to the Legislature for permission to levy taxes for its support.

In August, 1847, a Joint Special Committee of the City Council, consisting of Mayor Quincy, Aldermen Wetmore and Parker, and Councilmen Hillard, Carter, Thayer and Eaton, was directed to "consider and to report what acknowledgment and return should be made to the City of Paris for its gift of books and to provide a place for the same." In its report, submitted in October, the Committee rehearsed Vattemare's proposition, and said, "The mode of effecting it is by making cities representatives of the whole people, the agents for receiving and transmitting individual and public donations, and being the depositaries for the public of whatever may be returned. The City of Paris has a library open to all, and in order to commence this system of exchanges has sent a valuable and interesting donation to the City of Boston." They mentioned that some books had been given by citizens to the Mayor to be sent to Paris in exchange, and said that others might without doubt be secured by gift if the knowledge of the project were disseminated. They recommended the setting apart of a room on the third floor of City Hall for the temporary deposit of such gifts, and finally referred to the proposed public library and to an anonymous offer from Mayor Quincy, as follows:

The Committee cannot close their report without

recommending to the City Council a consideration of the propriety of commencing a public library. Many of the citizens would, they believe, be happy to contribute both in books and money to such an object and the Committee are informed that a citizen, who wishes that his name may be concealed, has offered the sum of $5,000 for the purpose of making the commencement, on condition only that $10,000 are raised at large for the same purpose and that the library should be as fully used by all, as may be consistent with the safe-keeping of the property.

The Council, by an order passed in concurrence October 18, 1847, authorized the Mayor to make acknowledgment to the City of Paris for its gift, and to solicit and care for and transmit any volumes deemed suitable in the opinion of the Committee as a return gift, and ordered further "that Messrs. Thayer, Carter, Eaton, Guild and Whiting be a Committee with such as the Aldermen may join to consider the expediency of commencing the formation of a public library under the control and auspices of the City, with authority to receive donations for the same, either in books or money, in case one should be established; and with directions to report rules for the use and management of the same to the Council." Mayor Quincy, Aldermen Wetmore and Parker were added to the Committee, and with the five gentlemen previously appointed made up the first joint committee upon the library. On the twenty-second of November, in concurrence, it was ordered:

That the joint special committee on the public library be directed to inquire into the expediency of applying to the legislature for the power to establish, regulate, and control a

library for the free use of every citizen, with power to appropriate any sum not exceeding . . . . . dollars, whenever a like sum shall be secured and placed in the hands of the city government for that purpose by private subscription. The said committee to fill the blank with such sum as they deem expedient.

On the sixth of December the Committee reported:

The establishment of the public library is recommended by many considerations. It will tend to interest the people at large in literature and science. It will provide for those who are desirous of reading a better class of books than the ephemeral literature of the day. It may be the means of developing minds that will make their possessors an honor and blessing to their race. It will give to the young when leaving school an opportunity to make further advances in learning and knowledge. It will, by supplying an innocent and praiseworthy occupation prevent a resort to those scenes of amusement that are prejudicial to the elevation of the mind. It will in addition to lectures established by Mr. Lowell and the libraries and advantages of the neighboring University, tend to make this City the resort of learned and scientific men from all sections of the Country, increasing the intelligence, the character, and the wealth of the City. In this connection the Committee are of the opinion that the plan of national exchanges as proposed by Mr. Vattemare is worthy the attention and patronage of the City. Its tendency to unite nations and disseminate knowledge is too obvious to need illustration. The books we have already received from the City of Paris have proved of value, both in public and private undertakings, by furnishing the knowledge which has been acquired by the experience of the old world for the guidance of the new. We may not be able to return to cities of the old world works of equal scientific or typographical execution, but we can send to our

sister Cities on this Continent those which may be of great importance.

In this point of view the establishment of this library and the adoption of this system appears to your Committee one of peculiar interest to our community. Linked together as we are by political and business relations the character and intelligence of the people in every city between Massachusetts and Oregon is of vast importance to the citizens of Boston. If a free public library is established here our example will be imitated. By a system of exchanges our best books may be placed within the reach of all classes of the people without expense. Those who write books which are intended for general circulation will be willing gratuitously to furnish copies that are to be placed where those who will guide the literary taste of the community will have access to them. At all events the establishment of public libraries, and a free exchange of works of science, literature and art will be productive of great good and is well deserving an attempt to obtain it. The Committee do not recommend that the City should make any appropriation for the purchase of books, or hold out any encouragement that it will be done hereafter. They only propose that they should receive and take care of any volume that may be contributed for the purpose, and agree that when the library is of sufficient importance to justify the expense, to provide means that should enable all the citizens to use it with as little restriction as is consistent with the safety and preservation of the property.

On the same day it was resolved, in concurrence:

That this City Council heartily approves of a proper effort on the part of the city government to establish a public library, and recommends that enterprise to the favourable consideration of the next City Council.

On the sixth of December also, the Joint Spe-

cial Committee on the public library, which had been directed by the order of November 16 to inquire into the expediency of applying to the Legislature for the power to establish a public library, reported that this subject should be referred to the next City Council, and it was so ordered.

In his inaugural address, January 3, 1848, Mayor Quincy called attention to the advisability of asking the Legislature for power to aid public-spirited citizens in the formation of a library, under as few restrictions as were consistent with the preservation of the property, and as soon as the incoming Council was organized the matter was taken up. On the tenth of January, it was ordered in concurrence:

> That the papers concerning a public library be taken from the files of the last Council, and referred to the President of the Council (Mr. Seaver), Messrs. Thayer, Carter, Marvin and Cushing, with such as the Aldermen might join; and the Mayor with Aldermen Gould and Rogers were joined.

This Committee reported the following order, which was passed in concurrence January 24, 1848: "That the Mayor be directed to apply to the Legislature for power to enable the City to establish and maintain a public library." In response to this application the Legislature passed an Enabling Act (the first legislation authorizing the City to establish and maintain a public library), which was approved by the Governor, March 18, 1848, as follows:

SECTION 1. The City of Boston is hereby author-

ized to establish and maintain a Public Library for the use of the inhabitants of the said City; and the City Council of the said City may, from time to time, make such rules and regulations for the care and maintenance thereof as they may deem proper: *Provided*, however, that no appropriations for the said Library shall exceed the sum of five thousand dollars in any one year.

SECTION 2. This act shall be null and void, unless it shall be accepted by the City Council of the said City of Boston, within sixty days from its passage.

On the third of April, in the Board of Aldermen, the act was read and accepted in concurrence. It was the first statute ever passed authorizing the establishment and maintenance of a public library as a municipal institution supported by taxation. It antedated by 16 months the general law in New Hampshire, and preceded by 38 months the first general law in Massachusetts. It was referred to in the discussion preceding the first English statute, authorizing the establishment of libraries and museums in municipal boroughs in England, which received royal assent, August 14, 1850.

On the twenty-first of December, 1848, the Joint Special Committee on the library reported to the Council:

That owing to the state of the Country which forbade any hope of a large public subscription towards such an institution they have directed their attention to an endeavor to render the library of the Boston Athenæum accessible to the public. They had devised a plan which met with the unanimous approbation of the Trustees of that Institution, by which on the annual payment of a sum of money, all the citizens would have had access to their rooms. This plan although unanimously recommended by the Trustees was

rejected by the shareholders, and your Committee were unable to make the proposal they hoped for the sanction of the City Council. They are however deeply impressed with the importance of such *instruction* for the honor of the City and the benefit of its inhabitants, and they therefore recommend the reference of the subject to the next City Council.

The subject was referred to the next Council as suggested by the Committee. The proposition to extend the use of the Athenæum Library to the citizens of the City, mentioned in this report, was brought forward under the following circumstances: The Athenæum was engaged in the erection of a new building upon Beacon Street, at an expense somewhat larger than was originally intended. It became necessary to borrow money and there was some difficulty in securing it. From the statement of Thomas G. Cary, then President of the Athenæum, it appears that:

The Trustees of the Athenæum were informed by the Mayor[3] that the City had been authorized to pay $5,000 annually for the support of a public library, and that probably this annuity and the sum of $100,000 (which he supposed could be raised by subscription among citizens, not shareholders of the Athenæum) might be given to this institution to complete the new building, and provide for a great extension of the library, on condition that the citizens generally should be admitted to all the privileges of the shareholders in the Athenæum. The Trustees declined to lay this proposal before the shareholders, regarding it as inadmissible.

The Trustees were then desired, on the part of the City, to state what terms they would consent to lay before the shareholders for their consideration. To this it was re-

[3] Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr.

plied, that, if they should receive an intimation or offer that the City would furnish the sum of $50,000 for the completion of the new building, and $5,000 annually for the support and increase of the library, as compensation for the admission of the citizens to the use of the library only, without any privileges in the reading-room or otherwise, they would lay the subject before the shareholders for their decision on it. This was accordingly done, the shareholders decided not to authorize the arrangement; and the Trustees, having made no offer, nor committed themselves or the institution in any way, the matter ended there.[4]

That this was a wise decision no one has since doubted. The need of independent action on the part of the City was now urged with vigor. John Jacob Astor died in New York, on the twenty-ninth of March, 1848. By a codicil of his will, dated August 22, 1839, he left the large sum of $400,000 for the establishment and maintenance of a public library in that city, including the provision of a building and contents, the library "to be accessible, at all reasonable hours and times, for general use, free of all expense to persons resorting thereto." This noble bequest inspired renewed efforts in behalf of a library in Boston. Edward Everett became interested in the project, and offered to present his valuable collection of State papers and other works. This offer was the first relating to a considerable amount of literary material. Nothing of importance about the movement appeared in the newspapers, which, at that time, gave little attention to local affairs, but a mid-century handbook of the City, Dearborn's "Boston Notions," published in 1848,

4 Quincy's History of the Boston Athenæum, p. 204.

contained the following article, which, although open to criticism as to its style, indicates the popular feeling upon the subject.

We wish we could have the pleasure of stating that such an institution was in the most prosperous condition; hundreds of our citizens are in quest of information on important subjects, explained only in tomes too costly for them to purchase, and beyond their reach at ten dollars per year: the artizan and mechanic have no avenue open to them for the satisfaction of their researches, and if some few may have an honorary membership to some collection of books, it is irksome to them to avail themselves of its privileges accompanied with the humble claims of favor.

A public institution under the guardianship of the city authorities, could be freely endowed by contributions from its noble-hearted citizens; and at a few hundred dollars expense to the city, would afford a valuable resource for the inquiring mind of the middling classes: possessing a good philological collection of volumes in the arts and sciences, valuable to the researches of those whose aim is to do something meritorious for themselves and beneficial to the community.

The Legislature of the State of Massachusetts are so noble minded, when embodied, that few grievances or wants among the people, but obtain from them a fair consideration and redress; and very unlike a sister state, it grants important favors to the citizens on any rational explanation and petition on the subject: and similar politic and liberal views and feelings are developed in the city government of Boston: so extensive are the provisions made for the years of childhood and minority, that every stage of it seems provided for; and the great finish to their liberal policy; would appear to be crowned with a PUBLIC CITY LIBRARY for the use of all its citizens, placed under certain checks and government to ensure its safety and perpetuity.

The attic of the Old Town House would afford all

the room and convenience, for such an institution, easy of access to those for whose benefit it may be designed; there it would be remote from noise; — prepared at a small cost and most centrally for the mass of the people: and this change of its present uses of dressing the outward man, for that of adorning the inward and developing the powers of mind, would be no sorry change in its feature.

In April, 1849, Vattemare was able to present to the City, in the name of the Minister of Public Instruction of France, the continuation of an important statistical publication. In alluding to this gift and to those which had preceded it, he said:

The City of Paris from her age, her wealth, her business, her position as the Metropolis of France, with her numerous public institutions, her learned men, her constant devotion to the health, the peace, the well being of her immense population, believes that she has acquired information and experience that may be useful to you, and to others. The results of this information and experience in all its various branches, she desires to communicate to you.

She only wishes in return that Boston do her the favor to receive these, her tokens of respect, and be stimulated to favor her in return, with such works of public value in the way of Regulations, Ordinances, System of Public Improvements, Reports of Departments, &c., as the great extent and population of your wisely ordered and well regulated City may from time to time give rise to. The cities of Boston and Paris are now connected by so many ties, not only of ancient friendship, but of constantly increasing social and business relations, that I am most happy in being in the present instance, the honored instrument of that mutual exchange of public acts of courtesy and beneficence by which France hopes to be able to cement more strongly, the kind and happy relationship, which has ever existed between her and the United States of America.

The books received through Vattemare related to the internal affairs, local government, history, and statistics of the City of Paris. These had been properly acknowledged by the City Council, but it was felt that this was an inadequate expression of gratitude. A Committee was therefore appointed to solicit contributions of similar literature to be sent to the City of Paris as a reciprocal gift from the City of Boston. After their successful efforts in this direction the Committee reported as follows, in September, 1848:

A sum of money might have been voted by the City Council to reciprocate these presents; but the Committee thought, that were their returns to be the voluntary and individual contributions of the citizens of Boston, these tokens of good will, would be more acceptable to the citizens of Paris, and would better harmonize with the system of Literary Exchanges. They therefore solicited donations of books and engravings, from authors, publishers, artists, and public institutions to be forwarded through the hands of the Mayor, to the metropolis of France, as a token of our fraternal feelings, and an evidence that our citizens had duly appreciated the liberal contributions received in former years.

It is with great pleasure they report, that without an exception, our fellow citizens from whom books and prints were requested, have made large and liberal gifts, and the Committee with pride and gratification, refer to the annexed list of books, amounting to more than *one thousand* volumes, with the names of the donors, as the best comment they can make upon this new subject of public interest.

These Books possess a value to your Committee, far beyond the immediate object for which they have been collected. They are a noble response from the community in favor of a FREE CITY LIBRARY, an object which has engaged the attention of many of our best citizens. The rare and

valuable works received from Paris, are the nucleus around which, we earnestly hope, a new and popular institution will speedily arise, which shall open its doors to the public. Should the system of literary exchanges be continued between nations and states, we may anticipate further donations of books, with which to enrich our City library. Many of the donors indulged the hope, that their contributions might lead to that result, and expressed a readiness to contribute towards the establishment of such an institution.

Your Committee cannot close their report without saying a few words in favor of Mr. Vattemare, the sagacious, zealous, and philanthropic individual whose mind conceived the vast benefits which would result to mankind from an interchange of books and works of art among Christian and civilized nations. This gentleman has brought the subject before the nations of Europe, and has also enlisted the cooperation of most of the states of this Union.

By his ardor, intelligence, urbanity, and untiring devotion, he has triumphed over every obstacle which threatened to obstruct his progress; and now enjoys the rare felicity of beholding the object so near his heart in the full "tide of successful experiment," receiving alike the countenance and support of kingdoms and republics, and bringing the nations of the world into a fraternity where mind bears sway — where the bond of union is sympathy of feeling for the noble inspirations of genius and the imperishable monuments of the master minds of our race.

As Americans, we sincerely rejoice at these new proofs of amity and good will, between our native country and its ancient ally, and we hope for a continuation of the exchange of the productions of those who are laboring in the "Republic of Letters," on both sides of the Atlantic.

The tenor of this report clearly shows the connection which the Committee acknowledged between the efforts of M. Vattemare and the establishment of a public library. Directly, Vattemare

did little. Although interested in the public library question which, as we have seen, was more and more and more discussed, his main object, to which all others were incidental, was the establishment, through international comity, of a system of exchanges, particularly of governmental reports and similar publications. But indirectly he had done much, since he had not only supplied the nucleus of a collection of books, but had stimulated interest in enlarging the collection by reciprocal action, and had promoted a spirit of generous giving towards the establishment of a library for the use of the people. As Justin Winsor has fitly said, "In the agitation that Vattemare incited we must look for the earliest movements which can be linked connectedly with the fruition now enjoyed."

In personally acknowledging the gifts received through M. Vattemare Mayor Bigelow, September 21, 1849, recognized their relation to the project which the friends of the library were promoting. He said: "They are treasured not only as the gift of an illustrious people, but as the basis and no insignificant portion of a free municipal library, which we are taking active measures to establish."

To this M. Vattemare responded, alluding to the hospitalities received in Boston during the eight years throughout which he had labored in behalf of his plan for a system of international exchanges. He expressed his thanks to the Governor, the Legislature, the City Authorities, and to those private citizens who had contributed the volumes which

through him were sent to Paris, and closed as follows: "The old and the young, the noble-hearted of both sexes have opened their coffers, and given abundantly. Let me hope that all may persevere, that what has now been so auspiciously commenced, may lead to the formation of a Public Library in this City, which shall increase as year after year rolls on, and continue long after the present generation shall have passed away."

October 31, 1849, Mayor Bigelow acknowledged the gift of certain bound volumes of public documents from Robert C. Winthrop, assuring him that Governor Everett had previously offered a large contribution, "so that with you and him the enterprise is already in successful progress."[5] In recognition of the energetic services of Mayor Bigelow during an epidemic of cholera in the city during 1849, certain citizens raised by subscription a fund which it was proposed to devote to the purchase of a silver vase or other testimonial to him. The Mayor, however, declined to receive a testimonial of the full value contemplated, and, out of the amount subscribed for this object, the sum of $1,000 was, in compliance with his wishes, contributed to the library fund, by vote of the Executive Committee of the subscribers, February 2, 1850.[6] This was the first contribution in money, and under the name of "the Bigelow Fund" was set apart as the first of the Library Trust Funds, its income being ever since

5 T. Bigelow, paper before the Boston Antiquarian Club, May 11, 1880.

6 T. Bigelow, as before.

devoted to the purchase of books.

On the twenty-second of the preceding month, January, 1850, Mr. Everett wrote to Mayor Bigelow — "I hope you will be able to do something this year toward the establishment of a City Library. I shall be happy to offer to the acceptance of the City my collection of public documents, whenever you think it will be convenient to the City to receive them. It will contain near a thousand volumes when some chasms which I hope to fill this winter are supplied." On the seventh of August, he wrote again as follows:

> You are aware that I have more than once intimated to you, orally and in writing, that I should be happy to give my collection of public documents and State papers to the City. Perceiving that a commencement is likely to be made toward the establishment of a public library, I will thank you to inform the city government that this collection is at their service, whenever it will suit their convenience to receive it. I have for nearly thirty years devoted a good deal of time and labor and considerable expense to its formation. It amounts at present to about one thousand volumes. From the foundation of the government up to the year 1825, when I first went to Congress, it contains nearly everything material. While I was in Congress I took great pains to preserve and bind up everything published by either house; and from that time to the year 1840, when I went abroad, the collection is tolerably complete. It is my intention to add to it, as far as they can be procured, the documents since published, and I omit no opportunity of supplying the deficiencies in other parts of the series.
>
> In addition to State papers and public documents the collection contains other works connected with the civil and political History of the country.

I hope it will not be thought intrusive in me to express the opinion, that, if the city government would provide a suitable building for a public library, it would be so amply supplied from time to time by donations, that only a moderate annual appropriation for books would be wanted. Such an establishment would be an object of public favor from the outset. The people would regard it as their own creation, and take a pride in its increase. Authors and publishers would feel it an honor to place their works on its shelves. There is hardly a citizen who would not have the ability and disposition to add something valuable to it, and from time to time, large and important additions might be expected by gift or bequest. Within the last thirty years, two additions have been made in this way to the library of the British Museum which have probably doubled the size and value of that noble collection.

If a building were commenced, on a lot of public land, aiming at nothing but convenience and neatness (and all attempts to go farther in architecture, are almost sure to fail), and so planned as to admit future enlargement, the first expense need not exceed that of one of those numerous school-houses, of which the city does not hesitate to erect one every two or three years. The more retired the situation the better. The library ought not to be a show place for strangers, nor a lounge for idlers; but a quiet retreat for persons of both sexes who desire earnestly to improve their minds.

Such a library would put the finishing hand to that system of public education that lies at the basis of the prosperity of Boston and with her benevolent institutions gives her so much of her name and praise in the land.

I ought to ask your indulgence for going so far beyond the immediate object of this letter. Though not a native, nor at this time an inhabitant of Boston, I am indebted to her, for a considerable part of my schooling, and feel the deepest interest in her welfare.

On the fifth of August the Aldermen acknowledged the gift of $1,000 received through the action of Mayor Bigelow, and by a resolve, requested the Library Committee of the City Council: "To proceed with as little delay as possible, and as far as the means in their hands would justify, to carry into effect the establishment of a free public Library, assurance having been given from several influential and wealthy persons of their readiness to coöperate in the measure, as soon as the same is commenced." Seven days later, August 12, the Council expressed its sense of the value and importance of Mr. Everett's proposed gift of books, and pledged itself to receive the same "whenever a suitable place shall be provided in which they can be deposited," and returned thanks to the donor for his generosity and public spirit.

Mayor Bigelow, in his inaugural address to the Council, January 6, 1851, referred to the proposed library, mentioned gifts of money and books that had been received as a foundation for such an institution, and said: "I commend the subject to your favorable consideration, and trust that an appropriation will be made, worthy of a project which has an auspicious bearing, prospectively, upon the moral and intellectual character of the people of Boston. As the result of such an example on your part, I anticipate many and valuable contributions for the purpose in view, at the hands of public spirited citizens." In response the Council appropriated $1,000 for library purposes.

On June 7, 1851, Mr. Everett transmitted to the Mayor a carefully prepared catalogue of the collection which he proposed to give to the City, and accompanied it with the following letter:

I beg leave to transmit to you herewith for the information of the city government a catalogue of the books contained in the collection of State papers and other works, which I had the honor of offering to the acceptance of the City last year as a contribution towards a public library. The number of the volumes is about a thousand, and I hope to have it in my power hereafter to render the collection of public documents more complete.

I remain of the opinion, which I took the liberty of expressing last year, that if the City would provide a suitable building, affording present accommodation for fifteen or twenty thousand volumes, and so constructed as to admit of enlargement hereafter, a valuable Public Library would very soon be formed by donation. A place of deposit thus provided, the Library I feel confident would steadily increase. Large collections of Books would occasionally be presented, and there can be no doubt that from individuals, and especially from authors, editors, and publishers belonging to Boston, single works would be constantly coming in. If in addition to these sources of increase, a moderate appropriation were annually made by the City for the purchase of works of a class not likely to be presented, — a large Public Library, with assurance of regular increase, would soon be added to the means of Education, possessed by the citizens of Boston. The cost of a suitable building need not exceed that of one of the larger School Houses.

In the letter which I had the honor of addressing to you on the 7th of August last, I spoke of such a Library as the completion of that noble system of Public Instruction, which reflects so much honor upon the City and does so much to promote its prosperity. I am anxious to give greater promi-

nence to this view of the subject than it has yet perhaps received.

The City of Boston expends annually, I believe, a larger sum for Schools and School Houses, in proportion to its population, than any city in Europe. Nothing like the same sum is appropriated by the City of London for these purposes. By this noble liberality the means are provided for giving our children of both sexes a good education up to the age of sixteen or seventeen years. This is done at the public expense for public motives. Individuals, as such, have no more claim upon the public for their education than for their board and clothing. The first principles of popular government require that the means of education should, as far as possible, be equally within the reach of the whole population. This can be effected in no other way than by a system of Education supported by the public. The same great motive of public policy requires that the Schools should be of a very superior order, so that every child may receive not merely an education, but an excellent education; — as good as could be got at the best and most expensive private Schools. I know of no place where these principles are so thoroughly carried out as in Boston; in other words where so great an equality exists in reference to the inestimable benefit of an early education.

This however is the case only up to the age when School education is at an end. We provide our children with the elements of learning and science, and put it in their power by independent study and research to make further acquisitions of useful knowledge from books, — but where are they to find the books in which it is contained? Here the noble principle of equality sadly fails. The sons of the wealthy alone have access to well-stored libraries; while those whose means do not allow them to purchase books are too often debarred from them at the moment when they would be most useful. We give them an elementary education, impart to them a taste and inspire them with an earnest

desire for further attainment, — which unite in making books a necessary of intellectual life, — and then make no provision for supplying them.

I would not overrate the importance of book learning. It is of little value without original inquiry and original thought. But good books are the record of the original inquiry and thought of able men; — which surely do not lose their value by being put upon paper for the benefit of others. Every one regards an opportunity of personal intercourse with men eminent for talent and learning as a great privilege and source of improvement; — to study their works is most effectually to cultivate this intercourse. It is generally impossible, from the nature of the case, to have personal intercourse with any persons of eminence except a very few of our own countrymen and contemporaries. By books we get access to the great men of every country and every age.

Is it not then a reproach to our City, that, — as far as the means of carrying on the great work of instruction beyond the limits of School Education are concerned, — no public provision exists in favor of those unable to indulge in what is now the expensive luxury of a large library? Where is the young engineer, machinist, architect, chemist, engraver, painter, or student in any of the professions or of any of the exact sciences, or of any branch of natural history, or of moral or intellectual philosophy, to get access to the books which are absolutely necessary to enable him to pursue his inquiries to any advantage? There are no libraries in Boston which strictly speaking are public. The library of the Athenæum and other similar collections are private property. They are administered with all practicable liberality; but are not and cannot be open to the public. Nothing is left to the young man who cannot afford to buy books but to borrow them of individuals; — a very precarious and inadequate dependence and one of which but very few can take advantage.

For these reasons I cannot but think that a Public

Library, well supplied with books in the various departments of art and science, and open at all times for consultation and study to the citizens at large, is absolutely needed to make our admirable system of Public Education complete; and to continue in some good degree through life that happy equality of intellectual privileges, which now exists in our Schools, but terminates with them. And I feel confident that with such moderate co-operation as I have indicated, on the part of the City, reliance may be safely placed upon individuals to do the rest. The Public Library would soon become an object of pride to the citizens of Boston; and every one would feel it an honor to do something for its increase.

In transmitting the communication to the City Council on the nineteenth of June, Mayor Bigelow said:

The suggestions and sentiments expressed in the letter are entitled to especial consideration for their intrinsic value, as well as on account of the honored source whence they emanate. If published, (as I presume the Council will authorize) they will effectively aid in establishing an institution, which has an important bearing upon the moral and intellectual character of Boston.

Besides the donation of Mr. Everett, the Library contains one hundred and eighty-seven volumes contributed by the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop; two hundred and nineteen volumes by John D. W. Williams, Esq., (of Roxbury), and ninety-six volumes by Alexandre Vattemare. Valuable contributions have likewise been made by Rev. J. B. McMahan, Ezra Weston, Esq., and others — the whole number of books now collected amounting to two thousand volumes. The Committee on the Library have funds at their control which will probably enable them to increase the number to four thousand volumes before the expiration of the year; and if the example of the public spirited citizens, who have been named, should exert its proper influence in

EDWARD EVERETT.

Trustee of the Library, 1852–1864. President of the Board, 1852–1864. Born, Dorchester (Mass.), April 11, 1794; died, Boston, January 15, 1865. Harvard College, class of 1811; clergyman, Boston, 1813; appointed professor of Greek at Harvard, 1814; Representative in Congress, 1825–1835; Governor of Massachusetts, 1836–1839; Minister to Great Britain, 1840–1845; President of Harvard College, 1846–1849; Secretary of State (U. S.), 1852; Senate (U. S.), 1853–1854.

Edward Everett

the community, the City will, within a short period, possess the largest and most valuable Municipal Library in the country.

The report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Public Library, received in the Council January 1, 1852, alluded to the progress that had been made, acknowledged the gifts of Mr. Everett, and others, mentioned the appropriation of $1,000 which had been made by the Council upon Mayor Bigelow's recommendation, which sum had been expended for books, under the direction of the Committee, and stated that "the Library now numbers scarcely less than 4,000 volumes." The report continues:

Besides, the present Mayor, as appears by the record, under date of August 5, 1850, made a donation of one thousand dollars to the Library; this sum is now in the hands of the Treasurer, subject to the disposal of the City Government.

We have then the nucleus of a useful institution already in our hands, and one too which will help make our system of Public Education complete.

It is believed that the City of Boston expends a larger sum, annually, for the education of her children, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, than any other city in the world; and it is well to remember that this outlay is made from mere motives of public policy; we educate, to restrain from vice, as much as to inculcate sentiments of virtue; we educate, to enable men to resist the temptations to evil, as well as to encourage and strengthen the incentives to good.

While we provide for the elementary education of our youth, and thereby awaken the desire for greater acquisition, shall we not furnish the requisite means?

Shall we carry our system of education to a certain

point, and withhold our support at the very time, when, if afforded, it would prove most serviceable?

In the Census Report of last year, facts were presented which clearly demonstrate that the ratio of increase is greater among the foreign than the native population, and that the time is not far distant, when, with the tide of immigration also setting in upon us, the preponderance in our City at least will be largely in their favor.

Immigrants for the most part are devoted to the laborious occupations of life; and, if it be true that they know nothing of the enervating influence of luxurious habits, it is also true that they think little of moral and intellectual culture.

Where is the remedy for this influx of ignorance in our native population? — the philanthropist tells us, in Education; and the founders of our Republic have left on record their testimony that the perpetuity of our institutions depends upon the intelligence of the people.

We are a reading community: with courses of well-endowed public lectures, with the daily issues of a well-conducted religious and secular press, what rational man can doubt the utility of establishing a Library of easy access to all classes of our people?

The Committee are decidedly of opinion that such an institution must be considered an important branch of Popular Education, and as such they commend it to the fostering care of the City Council.

The question of an outlay for the erection of a suitable Library Building, may well be left to the future, in the full assurance that if the Public Library is recognized as a public benefit, this matter will take care of itself.

In February, 1852, Mayor Seaver asked the attention of the Council to the needs of the Library. It was manifest that if further progress was to be made, and more liberal donations received, more

generous provision for its needs should be made by the City. Mayor Seaver said:

I deem it expedient, at this early period in the year, to call the attention of the City Council to the present condition of the Public Library. It is now about four years since the Legislature of the Commonwealth passed an Act authorizing the City of Boston to establish and maintain a Public Library, for the use of its inhabitants. Pursuant to this Act, the City Council established a Free Public Library, and appointed a Committee to see to its interests. On their recommendation, a small room on the third floor of the City Hall was appropriated to its use; and, although the number of books thus far received, — most of them presented by a few of our distinguished citizens, — does not exceed four thousand volumes, more ample accommodations are already needed, in order to place the books in a condition for use. It can hardly be expected that our citizens will feel disposed to make liberal donations to the Library before at least suitable rooms for the reception and safe keeping of books are provided. The City Council, under whose care and control the Library is placed by law, has not yet adopted any efficient measures for procuring a supply of good books on all subjects connected with the practical affairs of life and the general culture of the people. There should be, it seems to me, no unnecessary delay in placing the Library on such a foundation as will entitle it to, and secure for it the fullest confidence of the community in its success and usefulness. Boston ought not long to be far behind her sister City of New York, in the establishment of a Public Library; and, while we can scarcely hope to rival her princely Astor, it cannot be doubted that we have many citizens who would be ready to bestow upon it large sums in money and in books, if they can be *fully* satisfied of its *permanent* foundation and *ultimate success.*

A Free Public Library may justly be regarded as necessary to the completion of that noble system of Public

Instruction, which reflects so much honor upon our City, and does so much to promote its prosperity. This view of a Public Library is so happily presented in the Hon. Edward Everett's letter to my predecessor, that I am sure all will be highly pleased to see the idea expressed in his own language.[7]

It would be difficult to overstate the advantages which a Free Library, well stored with good books, must afford to the inhabitants of Boston, especially to the young, whose characters and tastes are growing into those permanent forms which will be likely to affect their condition through life.

In order to carry this Institution into successful operation, I respectfully suggest that a Librarian be appointed, and a large room or rooms easy of access in a central portion of the City be secured, as the one now occupied has always been regarded more as a place for the deposit of books, than a suitable situation for a permanent Library. I would also respectfully suggest for your consideration the propriety of appointing, from our citizens at large, five or six gentlemen who feel interested in the subject, who, together with the Joint Standing Committee, shall form a Board of Directors or Trustees for the Public Library. These gentlemen, being annually elected by the City Government to act with the Committee on the Library in the management of its affairs, would, I think, essentially aid in giving permanence to the Institution, and in securing the confidence and coöperation of our citizens.

The Mayor's recommendation as to the creation of a Board of Trustees was adopted May 3, 1852, and on May 24 the following citizens were elected: Edward Everett, George Ticknor, John P. Bigelow, Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, and Thomas G. Appleton. These, together with the Committee

7 Mayor Seaver here introduced several paragraphs from Mr. Everett's letter of June 7, 1851. See page 23, *ante*.

EDWARD CAPEN.

First Librarian, 1852–1874. Born, Dorchester (Mass.), October 20, 1821; died, Haverhill (Mass.), October 20, 1901. Harvard College, class of 1842; clergyman, 1846; secretary, Boston School Committee, 1852.

Edward Hagen

on the Library of the City Council, consisting of Mayor Seaver, Aldermen Sampson Reed and Lyman Perry, and James Lawrence, Edward S. Erving, James B. Allen, George W. Warren, and George Wilson, of the Common Council, were declared a Board of Trustees for the year 1852. Previously, May 13, the City Council had chosen a Librarian, Edward Capen. The Board held its first meeting May 31, and appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Everett, Ticknor, Reed, and Shurtleff, "to take into consideration the objects to be obtained by the establishment of a public library, and the best mode of effecting them, and to report thereon." The report, drawn by Mr. Ticknor, was submitted July 6, and unanimously adopted.

It considered fully the reasons for the establishment of a library, as an essential element in the educational system of the City; and pointed out, in forcible language, the need of supplementing the work of the public schools by free access to books. A public library was needed especially to enable the graduates of the schools to continue their pursuit of knowledge. Without this privilege the system of public instruction stops. Without it, the public, in the language of the report, "imparts with a noble equality of privilege, a knowledge of the elements of learning to all its children, but it affords them no aid in going beyond the elements. It awakens a taste for reading, but it furnishes to the public nothing to be read." The report showed that although libraries owned by private corporations were liberally

lending books to those who wished to borrow them, nevertheless such libraries were, by the nature of their proprietorship, unable to fill the broad field of usefulness which a library established and maintained at the public expense ought to occupy. Books ought to be free, upon public considerations. After tracing the growth of the library movement, more or less restricted up to that time, the report portrayed the library of the future, as embodied in the ideal of the writer; and since no such library then existed except as a mental concept, and since the entire public library movement, now assuming such large proportions, chiefly rests upon the basis which this report established, it is pertinent to quote it at length.

It has been rightly judged that, — under political, social and religious institutions like ours, — it is of paramount importance that the means of general information should be so diffused that the largest possible number of persons should be induced to read and understand questions going down to the very foundations of social order, which are constantly presenting themselves, and which we, as a people, are constantly required to decide, and do decide, either ignorantly or wisely. That this *can* be done, — that is, that such libraries *can* be collected, and that they will be used to a much wider extent than libraries have ever been used before, and with much more important results, there can be no doubt; and if it can be done *anywhere*, it can be done *here* in Boston; for no population of one hundred and fifty thousand souls, lying so compactly together as to be able, with tolerable convenience, to resort to one library, was ever before so well fitted to become a reading, self-cultivating population, as the population of our own city is at this moment.

To accomplish this object, however, — which has never yet been attempted, — we must use means which have never before been used; otherwise the library we propose to establish, will not be adjusted to its especial purposes. Above all, while the rightful claims of no class, — however highly educated already, — should be overlooked, the first regard should be shown, as in the case of our Free Schools, to the wants of those, who can, in no other way supply themselves with the interesting and healthy reading necessary for their farther education. What precise plan should be adopted for such a library, it is not, perhaps, possible to settle beforehand. It is a new thing, a new step forward in general education; and we must feel our way as we advance. Still, certain points seem to rise up with so much prominence, that without deciding on any formal arrangement, until experience shall show what is practically useful, — we may perhaps foresee that such a library as is contemplated would naturally fall into four classes, *viz.:*

I. *Books that cannot be taken out of the Library*, such as Cyclopaedias, Dictionaries, important public documents, and books, which, from their rarity or costliness, cannot be easily replaced. Perhaps others should be specifically added to this list, but after all, the Trustees would be sorry to exclude any book whatever so absolutely from circulation that, by permission of the highest authority having control of the library, it could not, in special cases, and with sufficient pledges for its safe and proper return, be taken out. For a book, it should be remembered, is never so much in the way of its duty as it is when it is in hand to be read or consulted.

II. *Books that few persons will wish to read*, and of which, therefore, only one copy will be kept, but which should be permitted to circulate freely, and if this copy should, contrary to expectation, be so often asked for, as to be rarely on the shelves, another copy should then be bought, — or if needful, more than one other copy, — so as to keep one generally at home, especially if it be such a book as is often wanted for use there.

III. *Books that will be often asked for*, (we mean, the more respectable of the popular books of the time,) of which copies should be provided in such numbers, that *many* persons, if they desire it, can be reading the same work at the same moment, and so render the pleasant and healthy literature of the day accessible to the whole people at the only time they care for it, — that is, when it is living, fresh and new. Additional copies, therefore, of any book of this class should continue to be bought almost as long as they are urgently demanded, and thus, by following the popular taste, — unless it should ask for something unhealthy, — we may hope to create a real desire for general reading; and, by permitting the freest circulation of the books that is consistent with their safety, cultivate this desire among the young, and in the families and at the firesides of the greatest possible number of persons in the city.

An appetite like this, when formed, will, we fully believe, provide wisely and well for its own wants. The popular, current literature of the day can occupy but a small portion of the leisure even of the more laborious parts of our population, provided there should exist among them a love for reading as great, for instance, as the love for public lecturing, or for the public schools; and when such a taste for books has once been formed by these lighter publications, then the older and more settled works in Biography, in History, and in the graver departments of knowledge will be demanded. That such a taste can be excited by such means, is proved from the course taken in obedience to the dictates of their own interests, by the publishers of the popular literature of the time during the last twenty or thirty years. The Harpers and others began chiefly with new novels and other books of little value. What they printed, however, was eagerly bought and read, because it was cheap and agreeable, if nothing else. A habit of reading was thus formed. Better books were soon demanded, and gradually the general taste has risen in its requisitions, until now the country abounds with respectable works of all sorts, — such as com-

pose the three hundred volumes of the Harpers' School Library and the two hundred of their Family Library — which are read by great numbers of our people everywhere, especially in New England and in the Middle States. This taste, therefore, once excited will, we are persuaded, go on of itself from year to year, demanding better and better books, and, can as we believe, by a little judicious help in the selections for a Free City Library, rather than by any direct control, restraint, or solicitation, be carried much higher than has been commonly deemed possible; preventing at the same time, a great deal of mischievous, poor reading now indulged in, which is bought and *paid* for, by offering good reading, *without pay*, which will be attractive.

Nor would the process by which this result is to be reached be a costly one; certainly not costly compared with its benefits. Nearly all the most popular books, are, from the circumstance of their popularity, cheap, — most of them very cheap, — because large editions of them are printed that are suited to the wants of those who cannot afford to buy dear books. It may, indeed, sometimes be necessary to purchase many copies of one of these books, and so the first outlay, in some cases, may seem considerable. But such a passion for any given book does not last long, and, as it subsides, the extra copies may be sold for something, until only a few are left in the library, or perhaps, only a single one, while the money received from the sale of the rest, — which, at a reduced price, would no doubt often be bought of the Librarian by those who had been most interested in reading them, — will serve to increase the general means for purchasing others of the same sort. The plan, therefore, it is believed, is a practicable one, so far as expense is concerned, and will, we think, be found on trial, much cheaper and much easier of execution than at the first suggestion, it may seem to be.

IV. The last class of books to be kept in such a library, consists, we suppose, of *periodical publications*, probably excluding newspapers, except such as may be given

by their proprietors. Like the first class, they should not be taken out at all, or only in rare and peculiar cases, but they should be kept in a Reading Room accessible to everybody; open as many hours of the day as possible, and always in the evening; and in which all the books on the shelves of every part of the Library should be furnished for perusal or for consultation to all who may ask for them, except to such persons as may, from their disorderly conduct or unseemly condition, interfere with the occupations and comfort of others who may be in the room.

As to the terms on which access should be had to a City Library, the Trustees can only say, that they would place no restrictions on its use, except such as the nature of individual books, or their safety may demand; regarding it as a great matter to carry as many of them as possible into the home of the young; into poor families; into cheap boarding houses; in short, wherever they will be most likely to affect life and raise personal character and condition. To many classes of persons the doors of such a library may, we conceive, be at once opened wide. All officers of the City Government, therefore, including the police, all clergymen settled among us, all city missionaries, all teachers of our public schools, all members of normal schools, all young persons who may have received medals or other honorary distinctions on leaving our Grammar and higher schools, and, in fact, as many classes, as can be safely entrusted with it *as classes*, might enjoy, on the mere names and personal responsibility of the individuals composing them, the right of taking out freely all books that are permitted to circulate, receiving one volume at a time. To all other persons, — women as well as men — living in the City, the same privilege might be granted on depositing the value of the volume or of the set to which it may belong; believing that the pledge of a single dollar or even less, may thus insure pleasant and profitable reading to any family among us.

In this way the Trustees would endeavor to make the Public Library of the City, as far as possible, the crowning

glory of our system of City Schools; or in other words, they would make it an institution, fitted to continue and increase the best effects of that system, by opening to all the means of self-culture through books, for which these schools have been specially qualifying them.

Such are the views entertained by the Trustees, with reference to the objects to be attained by the foundation of a public library and the mode of effecting them.

It remains to be considered briefly what steps should be adopted toward the accomplishment of such a design.

If it were probable that the City Council would deem it expedient at once to make a large appropriation for the erection of a building and the purchase of an ample library, and that the citizens at large would approve such an expenditure, the Trustees would of course feel great satisfaction in the prompt achievement of an object of such high public utility. But in the present state of the finances of the city, and in reference to an object on which the public mind is not yet enlightened by experience, the Trustees regard any such appropriation and expenditure as entirely out of the question. They conceive even that there are advantages in a more gradual course of measures. They look, therefore, only to the continuance of such moderate and frugal expenditure, on the part of the city, as has already been authorized and commenced, for the purchase of books and the compensation of the librarian; and for the assignment of a room or rooms in some one of the public buildings belonging to the city for the reception of the books already on hand, or which the Trustees have the means of procuring. With aid to this extent on the part of the city, the Trustees believe that all else may be left to the public spirit and liberality of individuals. They are inclined to think that, from time to time, considerable collections of books will be presented to the library by citizens of Boston, who will take pleasure in requiting in this way the advantages which they have received from its public institutions, or who for any other reasons are desirous of increasing the means of public improvement.

Besides the collections of magnitude and value, which can hardly fail in the lapse of years to be received in this way, it may with equal confidence be expected, that constant accessions will be made to the public library by the donation of single volumes or of small numbers of books, which, however inconsiderable in the single case, become in the course of time, an important source of increase to all public libraries. A free city library, being an object of interest to the entire population, would in this respect have an advantage over institutions which belong to private corporations. Authors and editors belonging to Boston would generally deem it a privilege to place a copy of their works on the shelves of a public library; and the liberal publishers of the city, to whose intelligence and enterprise the cause of literature and science has at all times owed so much, would unquestionably show themselves efficient friends and benefactors.

In fact, we know of no undertaking more likely, when once brought into promising operation, to enlist in its favor the whole strength of that feeling, which, in so eminent a degree, binds the citizens of Boston to the place of their birth or adoption. In particular the Trustees are disposed to think that there is not a parent in easy circumstances who has had a boy or girl educated at a public school, nor an individual who has himself enjoyed that privilege, who will not regard it at once as a duty and a pleasure to do something, in this way, to render more complete the provision for public education.

In order to put the library into operation with the least possible delay, the Trustees would propose to the city government to appropriate for this purpose the ground floor of the Adams school house in Mason street. They are led to believe that it will not be needed for the use of the Normal School proposed to be established in this building. It may be made, at a small expense, to afford ample accommodation for four or five thousand volumes, with an adjoining room for reading and consulting books, and it will admit of easy enlargement to twice its present dimensions. Such an apart-

ment would enable the Trustees at once to open the library with five thousand volumes, a collection of sufficient magnitude to afford a fair specimen of the benefits of such an establishment to the city.

Should it win the public favor, as the Trustees cannot but anticipate, it will soon reach a size, which will require enlarged premises. These, as we have said, can be easily provided by the extension of the present room on the ground floor; and it will be time enough, when the space at command is filled up, to consider what further provision need be made for the accommodation of the library. Should the expectation of the Trustees be realized, and should it be found to supply an existing defect in our otherwise admirable system of public education, its future condition may be safely left to the judicious liberality of the city government and the public spirit of the community.

The sub-committee of the Trustees which presented the foregoing report, also prepared a preliminary draft of an ordinance for the administration of the Library. The ordinance finally adopted, drawn by the City Solicitor, based upon this preliminary draft, was passed in concurrence by the Common Council, October 14, 1852. This was the first ordinance to give definite form to the library organization.

It empowered the Trustees to choose one of their number as President, and to make rules and regulations for their own government and for the administration of the Library. It gave the Trustees general care and control of the Library, and of the expenditure of money appropriated for it, subject to any limitations or restrictions imposed at any time by the City Council. The Trustees were directed

to make an annual report to the Council upon the condition of the Library, containing also a statement of the number of books added during the year, an account of the receipts and expenditures, and such other information or suggestions as the Trustees might deem important. The ordinance also provided for the election of a librarian annually, or whenever a vacancy occurred, by a concurrent vote of the two branches of the City Council. The Librarian was to have immediate care and custody of the Library, subject to the rules made by the Trustees, but his compensation was to be fixed by the Council, and he was removable at the pleasure of the Council. He was also to act as Secretary of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees were required to appoint annually a Committee of five citizens at large, who, together with a Trustee as Chairman, were to examine the Library and make report of its condition to the Trustees. Finally, the ordinance provided that a letter of acknowledgment signed by the President of the Trustees and countersigned by the Librarian, should be promptly returned to each person making a donation to the Library; and also made it the duty of the Trustees, in prescribing regulations relative to the care and use of the books, "to adopt such measures as shall extend the benefits of the institution as widely as practicable through the community."

Under this ordinance, in concurrence, on the seventh of February, 1853, Messrs. Edward Everett, George Ticknor, John P. Bigelow, Nathaniel

B. Shurtleff, and Thomas G. Appleton were elected by the City Council as Trustees from the citizens at large, and joined with Alderman Sampson Reed and George W. Warren of the Common Council. This Board held its first meeting February, 14, 1853, and Mr. Everett was chosen President. Edward Capen, the Librarian previously chosen by the City Council, was re-elected by the Council October 17, and, in accordance with the ordinance, became the Secretary of the Board.

In 1852 Mayor Seaver forwarded to the Barings in London, with whom the City Government was then negotiating a water loan, certain city documents, among which was a copy of the Trustees' report upon the establishment of the Library. Joshua Bates, who was a member of the firm, sent to the Mayor the following letter, which bears date October 1, 1852:

Dear Sir:

I am indebted to you for a copy of the Report of the Trustees of the Public Library for the City of Boston, which I have perused with great interest, being impressed with the importance to rising and future generations of such a Library as is recommended; and while I am sure that, in a liberal and wealthy community like that of Boston, there will be no want of funds to carry out the recommendations of the Trustees, it may accelerate its accomplishment and establish the Library at once, on a scale to do credit to the City, if I am allowed to pay for the books required, which I am quite willing to do, — leaving to the City to provide the building and take care of the expenses.

The only condition that I ask is, that the building shall be such as to be an ornament to the City, that there shall be a room for one hundred to one hundred and fifty

persons to sit at reading-tables, — that it shall be perfectly free to all, with no other restrictions than may be necessary for the preservation of the books. What the building may cost, I am unable to estimate, but the books, counting additions during my life time — I estimate at $50,000, which I shall gladly contribute, and consider it but a small return for the many acts of confidence and kindness which I have received from my many friends in your City.

Mr. Bates's letter to the Mayor was enclosed in a private communication to his friend, Mr. T. W. Ward of Boston, to whom he wrote, fully disclosing the motives which prompted his gift. He said:

I enclose a letter to the Mayor, which please to peruse, and then go to Mr. Everett and Mr. Ticknor, and explain to them my ideas, which are that my own experience as a poor boy convinced me of the great advantage of such a library. Having no money to spend and no place to go to, not being able to pay for a fire in my own room, I could not pay for books, and the best way I could pass my evenings was to sit in Hastings, Etheridge & Bliss's bookstore, and read what they kindly permitted me to; and I am confident that had there been good, warm, and well-lighted rooms to which we could have resorted, with proper books, nearly all the youth of my acquaintance would have spent their evenings there, to the improvement of their minds and morals.

Now it strikes me, that it will not do to have the rooms in the proposed library much inferior to the rooms occupied for the same object by the upper class. Let the virtuous and industrious of the middle and mechanic class feel that there is not so much difference between them. Few but worthy young men will frequent the library at first; they may draw others from vice to tread in the same paths; and with large, well-lighted rooms, well-warmed in winter, I feel sure that the moral effect will keep pace with mental improvement, and it will be carrying out the school system of Boston, as it ought to be carried out.

My friends may think differently, or that my proposal is improper, or in the wrong form; but if you all agree that it is right and proper, the trustees may go to work and provide such books as they find cheapest in the United States, drawing on me for the cost, sending me a list of such as can best be procured here or in France, and I will have them purchased without delay. If this conclusion is come to, then my letter to the Mayor may be delivered, if it is thought a proper one. I rely on you, Mr. Everett and Mr. Ticknor, to put the matter right.

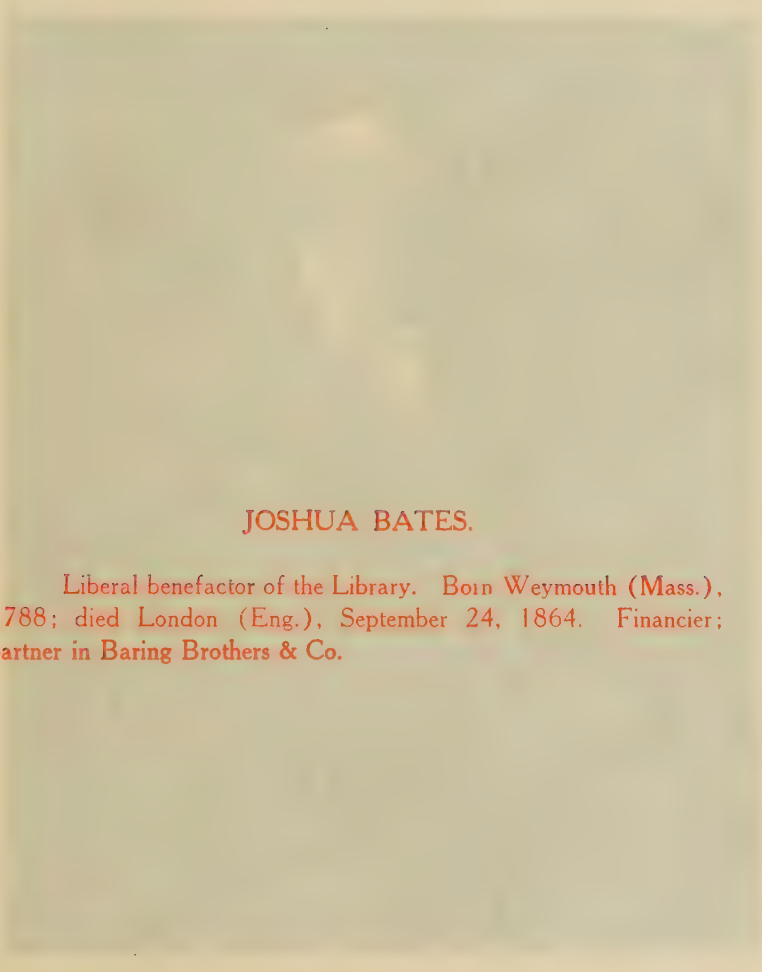
The City Government gratefully accepted this gift and the Trustees asked Mr. Bates to permit the money to be funded, the interest only to be expended for books of permanent value. To this he at once consented, and by a letter transmitted in March, 1853, authorized the Mayor to draw upon him for $50,000.

Mr. Bates was the only son of Joshua Bates of Weymouth, Mass., where he was born in 1788. At the age of fifteen he entered the counting-house of William R. Gray, a leading merchant of Boston. Later, on becoming of age, he formed a business connection with a former shipmaster in the service of Mr. Gray's father, who was at that time the largest ship owner in the country. The commerce of the United States was then suffering from the effect of the British Orders in Council and the French Imperial Decrees. Mr. Bates's new enterprise failed, and being again out of employment, he was selected by William Gray, Senior, as his general agent in Europe, with headquarters in London, a position requiring great tact and business acumen. In Mr. Gray's service he was brought in contact with lead-

ing merchants and financiers, whom he impressed by his manner, ability, and the scrupulous integrity of his conduct. Among these was M. Peter César Labouchère, of the important house of Hope & Co., Amsterdam, who offered his counsel and aid to Mr. Bates, should he, at any time, need such support. The failure of Samuel Williams, an American banker and merchant in London, in 1826, created an opportunity for a successor. Mr. Bates had the requisite experience, but insufficient capital. In this juncture he relied upon the proffered advice of M. Labouchère, who placed to his credit with the Barings, 20,000 pounds sterling. A partnership between John Baring and Mr. Bates soon followed, continuing two years, after which both members of the new firm were admitted to the house of Baring Brothers & Co., Mr. Bates later becoming the senior member.

This gift from Mr. Bates placed the Library on a firm basis. It provided for the annual acquisition of a considerable number of books, the income at first amounting to $3,000. Jonathan Phillips, a leading citizen, gave $10,000 in April, 1853,[8] and this being funded yielded an annual income of $600. Valuable gifts of books continued to be made, and the permanency of the institution was assured. In November, 1852, after his gift had been formally accepted, Mr. Bates, anticipating the speedy erection of a library building, wrote as follows to Mr.

[8] Increased to $30,000 by a bequest from Mr. Phillips received after his death in 1861.



JOSHUA BATES.

Liberal benefactor of the Library. Born Weymouth (Mass.), 1788; died London (Eng.), September 24, 1864. Financier; partner in Baring Brothers & Co.

Johnny Ball

Ward, expressing more fully his ideas as to its architecture:

MY DEAR WARD:

I have received your valued letter with the newspaper account of the proceedings of the Board of Aldermen on my letter offering to furnish the books for the City Library. These proceedings are very gratifying to me personally and give me confidence that the Library will be established on a footing that will make it extensively useful, and that it will grow into one of the most important institutions in the United States. My ideas are that the building should contain lofty apartments to serve for placing the books and also for reading tables, as the holding of books in the hand damages them very soon. The architecture should be such that the student on entering it will be impressed and elevated, and feel a pride that such a place is free to him. There should be niches and places for a few marble statues, as these will from time to time be contributed by those who may be benefited by the institution. When on their travels in Italy they see the originals they will be pretty sure to order something. By these means the reading rooms will be made more attractive, and the rising generation will be able to contemplate familiarity with the best works of the celebrated masters. There should be an entrance hall, a room for cloaks and umbrellas, and a room for washing hands, with soap, hot water and towels provided. The rooms should be well-warmed in winter, and well-lighted. If you will only provide the building, — and you can hardly have it too large, — I can assure the Committee that all the rest will come as a matter of course. These reading arrangements will not prevent parties who may find it more convenient to read at home from taking books, — giving proper security.

My experience convinces me that there are a large number of young men who make a decent appearance, but living in boarding houses or with poor parents, cannot afford to have fire in their rooms. Such persons in past times having

no place of resort have often loitered about the streets in the evenings and got into bad company, which would have been avoided, had such a library as is now proposed been in existence. The moral and intellectual improvement such a library would produce is incalculable. I wish to see the Institution a model for other towns and cities. There should be a book of directions for reading in every branch of knowledge, that the young men may know where to begin. In future times when it is desired to know something of a young man, the question will be asked, "Does he frequent the Library?" I have no doubt the Committee understand the matter much better than I do, or that it will be carried out in the best possible manner.

As requested by the Trustees, the rooms upon the ground floor of the Adams schoolhouse in Mason Street were granted for the temporary use of the Library. This is the building now occupied as the headquarters of the School Committee. The Trustees desired to open the Library to the public on the first of October, 1853. This was found impossible, on account of the work involved in obtaining the books and preparing them for use, and, although the reading room in Mason Street was opened on the twentieth of March, 1854, it was not until the second of May in that year that the circulating department was opened. From that time until the present the Library has been continuously in operation, except during brief periods in the early years when it was customary to close the Library for the purpose of examination, and during four days required in 1895 for the removal from Boylston Street to Copley Square.

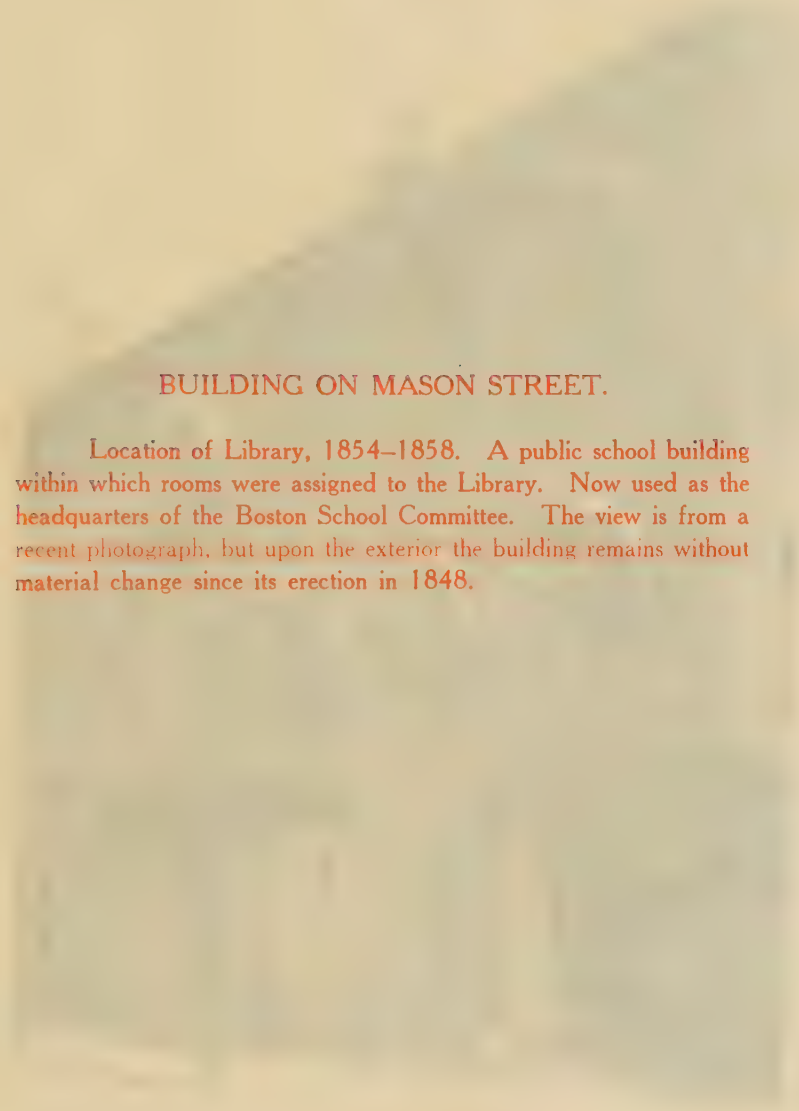
CHAPTER II.

IN the Mason Street quarters there were but two rooms assigned for the use of the Library. The inner room, used for the storage of books, was small, ill-ventilated, poorly lighted, and insufficiently heated in winter. The outer room was designated the reading room, and here were kept the periodicals, 138 in number in 1854, the transactions of various societies, official reports, etc., all of which were open to consultation on convenient tables. An accession book was opened, in which every title was entered, with a record of the cost, condition, etc., of each volume when received. A shelf-list was begun, containing the titles of the books as they were arranged on the shelves. Besides these, there was an official card catalogue, open also to persons who wished to make careful investigation of particular subjects, with a printed alphabetical catalogue, of which copies, interleaved with blank pages to receive from day to day the titles of books added to the Library, were placed upon the tables in the reading room. The Trustees invited the coöperation of the public in the selection of books for purchase, adopting a blank form of recommendation upon which titles suggested as desirable accessions might be written, a plan continuously in operation ever since. They also expected

numerous additions from individual gifts of books, in which hope they were not disappointed.

The Library, even in its entirely inadequate quarters, was immediately successful. During the five and a half months following the opening on May 2, 1854, 6,590 persons registered in order that they might enjoy its privileges, and several thousand used the reading room, of whom no record was kept. During this period, 35,389 volumes were borrowed for home use, and the Librarian reports that it was not known that, "in any instance a wilful, and in only one instance an accidental injury was done to a book, and in the latter case the damage was voluntarily and cheerfully made good." Only one book was lost and that was paid for.

The rules and regulations for the use of the Library, prepared by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff and Sampson Reed, a committee of the Trustees to whom the subject had been referred, were adopted, in an amended draft, on the eighth of November in the preceding year. They provided for the opening of the reading room from nine o'clock in the forenoon until half past nine in the evening on all secular days except holidays. The use of the reading room was open to all inhabitants of Boston of respectable character and above the age of 16 years, upon their first signing an agreement to observe the rules and regulations. Certificates from parents or guardians were required in the case of minors, and for the conduct of such minors while in the room the parents or guardian became responsible. Books for use in the



BUILDING ON MASON STREET.

Location of Library, 1854–1858. A public school building within which rooms were assigned to the Library. Now used as the headquarters of the Boston School Committee. The view is from a recent photograph, but upon the exterior the building remains without material change since its erection in 1848.

THE MASON STREET BUILDING

LOCATION OF LIBRARY 1854-1858

reading room were furnished by the Librarian, upon application by means of a card containing the catalogue number of the book desired. Pamphlets and periodicals were openly accessible. The Librarian was required to keep an alphabetical list of the names and residences of all the persons who used the reading room. The Library was open for the delivery of books for home use from three o'clock in the afternoon until eight o'clock in the evening, on all days when the reading room was open, except during the two weeks preceding the annual examination of the Library, which occurred on the last secular day in October. No book was permitted to be taken from the shelves except by an officer of the Library. Books were called for on cards provided for the purpose, by the use of their catalogue numbers.

The privilege of borrowing books for home use was allowed inhabitants of the City of Boston, duly certified to the Librarian as within the following classes: officers of the City Government for the time being, and all who may have been members of the City Council; persons holding office or having regular employment under the authority of the City Government; ordained ministers of the gospel and city missionaries, regularly officiating within the City; teachers of private schools within the City; members of the normal school; all the medal scholars annually graduated from the public schools of the City, together with a further number of scholars graduated at the same time from each school, not exceeding the number of its medal scholars, to be

selected by the Chairman of its Sub-Committee (of the School Board), and with the medal scholars of the year to be certified by him to the Librarian, as well-deserving, from their proficiency in their studies, and from their good character, to enjoy the privileges of the Public Library; any inhabitant who should deposit with the Librarian the full value of the volume asked for, or if it be part of a set, then of the whole set; all other inhabitants over the age of 21 years, and who were known to the Librarian to be persons who ought to enjoy the privileges of the Library, or who were duly certified to him by some respectable and responsible citizen, who by such certification made himself liable for any loss the Library might sustain in consequence.

Besides these, the privilege of borrowing books for home use was extended to any person not an inhabitant of the City, who had become a benefactor to the Library to an amount not less than one hundred dollars. No person was allowed to borrow more than one book at a time, and no book might be retained for longer than 14 days. A renewal of the loan was permitted once, but not more than once, to the same person, until the book had been returned and had remained in the Library at least one full library day. Fines were imposed for retaining a book longer than permitted by the regulations, and the fine varied with the size of the book. For example, persons "detaining any imperial octavo or larger volume" beyond the time limit were fined three cents for each day of such detention, but only two cents

a day was charged for the similar detention of any smaller volume. Any book detained one week beyond the time limit was sent for by the Librarian, and the expense of thus obtaining it charged to the borrower. Injuries to books and losses were also charged to the borrower, and any book detained more than three months was regarded as lost. No person who borrowed a book was permitted to lend it to any person not a member of the same household, and failure to observe the rules might lead to the exclusion of the offender, either temporarily or permanently, from library privileges.

The subject of providing for the permanent housing of the Library was constantly under discussion. As early as March, 1853, the City Council directed the Committee on the Public Library in conjunction with the Committee on Public Buildings to consider the practicability and expediency of providing for the Library and for enlarged accommodations for the City Government, by erections on the City's land on School Street, by additions to the existing City Hall, or by an entirely new building for the two objects on the same site. Two reports were presented. The majority of the Committee decided that each scheme was impracticable and inexpedient. The minority presented a plan which included accommodations for the Library, but this was not adopted. Later, a lot of land on Somerset Street was selected and purchased as a site for an independent library building. Upon further consideration, however, this was "abandoned as not

sufficiently near the centre of population, having regard to the probable growth of the city in a southern direction," and was sold without loss. Subsequently, before the close of the year 1853, a site was secured on Boylston Street, with "a view of the Common, which secures to it unobstructed light and air, and as fine a prospect as can be enjoyed in any city of the world."

The Trustees suggested in their first annual report, November, 1853, that such a building as they contemplated would require two or three years in construction, and they respectfully submitted that it might be expedient to entrust its erection to a Commission specially appointed for the purpose, "since it was of the utmost importance to the prosperity of the Library that the plan should be in the best taste, that it should combine all the most recent improvements in library buildings, and that such a plan, once adopted, should be carried out to its completion with steadiness." In line with this recommendation the Council adopted the following ordinance passed in concurrence November 27, 1854, providing for the establishment of a "Board of Commissioners on the erection of a Building for the Public Library of the City of Boston."

SECTION 1. There shall be chosen, by concurrent vote of the City Council, during the month of November in the present year, seven persons, two from the City Council, (one from each branch thereof,) two from the trustees at large of the Public Library, and three from the citizens at large, who shall constitute a Board of Commissioners for the erection of the Public Library.

SECT. 2. The said Commissioners shall procure the erection of a suitable building for the Public Library. They shall select a proper plan for the construction of the said edifice; shall make contracts for all the labor and materials requisite therefor; shall superintend the building thereof, until its completion; and shall have the sole charge, care, and responsibility of the building, warming, lighting, ventilating, draining, and furnishing the said edifice; and all the contracts, bargains, and agreements of the said Commissioners, made in pursuance of the authority hereby vested in them, shall be binding upon the City; Provided, always, that the amount of money to be expended by the said Commissioners shall be determined by a vote of the City Council.

SECT. 3. The said Commissioners shall meet at stated periods, and cause a record of their proceedings to be kept; and for this purpose the librarian of the Public Library shall act as their clerk, and they shall make report of their doings to the City Council once in three months; and oftener, if thereto required by a vote of the City Council.

SECT. 4. The office and duties of the said Commissioners shall continue until the said Library Building shall have been completed, and be ready for the reception of books; and in case of a vacancy by death or resignation, the said vacancy shall be filled by a concurrent vote of the City Council.

SECT. 5. The said Commissioners, after completing the duties hereby assigned to them, shall deposit the book or books containing the record of their proceedings with the City Clerk.

The Commission under this ordinance first consisted of Robert C. Winthrop, Samuel G. Ward, George Ticknor, Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, George Odiorne, and George W. Warren. Of these, Messrs. Ticknor and Shurtleff were also Trustees. Henry N. Hooper, originally chosen as

a member of the Commission, declined. Mr. Odiorne closed his connection with the Commission by resignation. Mr. Warren's term expired at the end of the year. A change was then made in the ordinance, providing that four Commissioners should serve permanently, joined with one Alderman and two members of the Common Council, to be selected annually. The Alderman chosen was Charles Woodberry, and the members of the Council at first selected were Joseph A. Pond and Bradbury G. Prescott. Mr. Prescott declined, and Edward F. Porter was chosen instead. Messrs. Winthrop, Ward, Ticknor and Shurtleff were retained as the permanent members of the Board. Subsequently (January, 1856), Pelham Bonney and Joseph Buckley respectively succeeded Messrs. Woodberry and Porter. In May, 1856, Mr. Ticknor resigned on account of proposed absence from Boston, and Mr. Everett succeeded him. Still later (January, 1857), William Parkman, of the Council, succeeded Mr. Buckley.

On the twenty-seventh of December, 1854, the Commission passed the following resolution:

> To avoid all misconception and misconstruction, it is hereby declared as the explicit understanding of this Board that no pecuniary compensation or allowance in any form is to be received by any of its members for any service he may render as such.

January 3, 1855, the Commission received from the City Council a joint resolution, authorizing them "to locate the building upon the lot situated

upon Boylston Street," if the Commission deemed it expedient. Thereupon, after consideration, the Commissioners resolved "that in their opinion the lot of ground on Boylston Street, purchased as a site for the Public Library building, is a suitable place for the location of said building, and that measures be taken to procure plans accordingly." On the twenty-sixth of January, the Commission issued to architects a programme of requirements for the new building, with notice of their readiness to receive designs.

The proceedings which resulted in the change in the ordinance relating to the membership of the Commission, noted above, caused an entire suspension in the actions of the Board from the sixth of March to the fourteenth of April, 1855. Twenty-four designs for the building were received from Boston architects, and from these the design of Charles K. Kirby was selected on the twenty-seventh of April. As certain features of other designs seemed worthy of adoption, the Commission secured, by arrangement with their authors, the designs of John R. Hall, Schulze & Edwards, and E. C. & J. E. Cabot. After some modification, the design of Mr. Kirby was embodied in working plans and specifications, tenders for the erection of the building were received from contractors, and on the fourteenth day of June a contract was made with Nathan Drake for the construction of the walls, floors, and roof. The corner-stone was laid on the seventeenth of September, 1855; the two hundred

and twenty-fifth anniversary of the day on which the City of Boston received its present name.

The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. E. N. Kirk, followed by the singing of a hymn, written for the occasion by George Lunt, and sung by the pupils of the Girls' High and Normal School, under the direction of L. H. Southard. Robert C. Winthrop, President of the Building Commissioners, then in an address referred to the attention which had been given to public education in New England from colonial days, to the influence of good books in advancing the welfare and promoting the happiness of mankind, to the establishment of the public library as a final step in the educational system, to the numerous gifts which had been made in its behalf, and to the place which it was hoped the new building would have in the life of the City. He then presented a burnished steel trowel to the Mayor, Jerome V. C. Smith, who, after a brief address in response, proceeded to lay the corner-stone, in the name of the City, in the presence of the Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, who had been officially invited to take part in the ceremony. The one hundred and seventeenth Psalm was then sung by the pupils of the High and Normal School, and the exercises were closed by the benediction pronounced by Rev. E. S. Gannett.

Copies of the drawings for the new building had been sent to Mr. Bates in London, and on the sixth of July he wrote to Mr. Ticknor as follows:

Mr. Ward has sent me the drawings and plans of the Building, which remove all fear from my mind in regard to the accommodation it will afford. So far as I can judge the plan is excellent and the elevation sufficiently imposing for the quiet City of Boston. Nothing now remains but to provide a sufficient number of Books for the opening. I had anticipated this difficulty, as Mr. Ward and Mr. Everett will have no doubt informed you. I see no other way but that the Committee should make out a Catalogue of French, German and Italian Books, and such English works as are most needed, the whole not to exceed in cost $20,000 or $30,000. I will supply what money your funds will not pay for, but you must tell me how this additional sum can be so bestowed as to secure the application of the Library in future time to the people as originally intended.

As soon as he received a reply to this letter Mr. Bates wrote to Mayor Smith as follows:

London, 6 Sept., 1855.

DEAR SIR:

I learn with great satisfaction that the building for a Free Public Library, for which such liberal appropriations have been made by the City Council is in progress of erection. I have on former occasions taken the liberty to express the deep interest which I feel in the establishment of this institution, as the completion of that system of education at the free public schools, by which Boston is so honorably distinguished. It has therefore been with the greatest pleasure that I have from time to time learned that even under the disadvantage of temporary and inconvenient premises for the arrangement of its books and the accommodation of those who use them, it has found great favor with the community and with many liberal individuals, and has already given promise of becoming an ornament and a blessing to the City.

It is, I understand, certain, that within eighteen months or two years, a building will be completed of dimensions

amply sufficient for the reception at once of a large number of books, and for the regular future increase of the Library. Time and the public spirit of the community will, no doubt, do much. But it is desirable and important to render this Free Public Library *at once* extensively useful as a large collection of books in as many departments of human knowledge as possible. For this purpose, and still further to manifest my deep interest in the prosperity of the City of Boston, I now propose, if agreeable to the City Government, in addition to the fund of fifty thousand dollars already constituted, to purchase and present to the City a considerable number of books *in trust*, that the same shall always be accessible in a convenient and becoming Library Building, to the inhabitants of Boston generally, under such regulations as may be deemed needful by the persons to whom the government of the institution may from time to time be confided.

Trusting that the steps already taken and now proposed, together with the continued patronage and powerful support of the City authorities, and of a liberal and enlightened community, will result in the establishment of an institution which will in all future time prove eminently useful and honorable to the City.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours very truly,
JOSHUA BATES.

This second important gift from Mr. Bates was referred to in the following extract from the Third Annual Report of the Trustees as follows:

Mr. Bates' communication having been referred to the Library Committee, acting in conjunction with the Trustees, this new and most liberal offer was, on their joint recommendation, gratefully accepted by the City government, on the condition on which it was tendered. It is scarcely necessary to state that this act of enlightened liberality on the part of Mr. Bates promises to fulfill the most sanguine hopes of the Trustees, in reference to the immediate success of the

institution. They confidently calculate on being able to open the library, when the new building shall be completed, with a number of volumes which will reflect the highest honor upon the munificence which has founded it.

In the selection of the books, Mr. Bates requested the coöperation of the Trustees, who therefore submitted a list of such works as they considered suitable. In the preparation of this list they obtained the expert advice of Charles C. Jewett, formerly Librarian of Brown University, and afterwards of the Smithsonian Institution. Pending the completion of the new building, a portion of the books were, during 1855, removed from the crowded rooms in Mason Street to the Quincy Schoolhouse on Tyler Street for temporary deposit. As it was out of the question to provide at Mason Street for the reception and preparation for the shelves of the books purchased under Mr. Bates's latest donation, a house was leased on Boylston Place, near the site of the new library building, and here by November, 1856, 11,000 volumes, carefully selected, had been received, which, together with those on Mason Street and on deposit at the Quincy Schoolhouse, formed an aggregate of nearly 40,000 volumes.

Mr. Ticknor, who still remained a member of the Board of Trustees, visited Europe in 1856. This visit was important not only in the direct results of his services in behalf of the Library, but indirectly through the European connections he was able to make in its interest. The circumstances of

the visit and the importance of Mr. Ticknor's efforts were set forth by the Trustees in their report submitted in 1857, as follows:

A principal inducement of Mr. Ticknor to visit Europe in 1856, was to render such assistance as might be desirable to Mr. Bates in carrying out his noble purpose of making a large donation of books to the library. The Trustees gladly availed themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them of supplying the library, from their own resources and on the most advantageous terms, with such other books as it was deemed expedient at this time to purchase in Europe. They accordingly placed at Mr. Ticknor's disposal nearly all the funds at their command in Europe, and empowered him in other respects to act for them during his absence. In a communication dated 23d September, 1857, he has submitted to the Trustees a detailed account of his proceedings under the authority conferred upon him by several votes of the Board. The Trustees have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that the services rendered by him are of the highest importance. It having been determined from the first by Mr. Bates that a considerable part of his donation should be expended in continental literature, and no arrangement having as yet been made by him, except for the purchase of French books, the assistance of Mr. Ticknor in making arrangements personally for the German and Italian departments was in the highest degree seasonable and effective. In giving much of his time and his unwearied personal attention to the affairs of the library, during his absence in Europe, Mr. Ticknor has but continued those services to which it was already so much indebted, and which have contributed so much to the prosperity of the institution. In addition to all that was effected personally by himself, the agencies established by him, and the good offices of some of the most accomplished librarians and bibliographers of Europe, which he has secured for the institution, will no doubt materially subserve its interests.

GEORGE TICKNOR.

Trustee of the Library, 1852–1866; President of the Board, 1865. Born, Boston, August 1, 1791; died, Boston, January 26, 1871. Dartmouth College, class of 1807; lawyer and author; professor of French and Spanish languages and of Belles-Lettres at Harvard College, 1819–1835.

Mr. Ticknor, while abroad, visited London, Paris, Brussels, Berlin, Leipsic, Vienna, Florence, Rome, and other cities. He made many important purchases for the Library, arranged for competent purchasing agents in the foreign field, and brought the Boston institution to the attention of some of the more important European libraries, establishing relations of good will, which have ever since continued. He saw M. Vattemare, who had finally returned to Paris, but who, while still interested in the international exchange of official publications, was unable to become the sole European agent of the Library for such exchanges, or indeed to become in any way an agent of the Library, as had been suggested by the Trustees.

It was felt that in view of the great extension of the operations of the Library, inevitable as soon as the new building should be ready for occupancy, a more definite organization of the department was needed. Therefore the Trustees, in a memorial bearing date November 2, 1857, represented to the City Council the need of change. Under the then existing ordinance passed October 18, 1852, the Trustees were authorized to make, subject to the limitations and restrictions of the Council, rules and regulations for the care and control of the Library, and to appoint subordinate officers, except the Librarian, who was to be chosen annually by the Council, "after a recommendation of a person, in their judgment suitable" had been made in writing by the Trustees.

The memorial of the Trustees to the Council referred to the arduous work required in the circulating department of the Library, and the labor necessary in cataloguing and preparing for circulation some 6,000 volumes every year, and that this service would be much enlarged as soon as the new building was completed. But beyond this, the Trustees saw clearly that the Library was destined to occupy a much higher place than that of a mere distributing agency. As the report submitted in 1852 had established a basis for the general operation of such a library, so this memorial, in a few brief paragraphs, outlines more definitely the higher phases of library work, and what is required for their successful administration. After considering matters of ordinary routine, the memorial continues:

> But in addition to the work of this kind, there is much to be done, in a first class library, of a different and higher character. In order to meet the demands of the community and answer the ends for which it was established, it must within reasonable limits, promptly receive every important and useful new publication, in our own and foreign languages. To keep it supplied in this respect, it is necessary that some one, whose duty it is, should devote so much time to the various departments of science and literature, as to keep himself well acquainted with their progressive condition. To prepare judiciously and with discrimination, the requisite selected lists of books to be annually purchased at home and abroad would of itself, require a considerable part of the time of an accomplished bibliographer.
>
> An important part of the duty of those charged with the management of large public libraries is to attend to persons, both citizens and others, who resort to them for the

purpose of scientific and literary research. Many persons will visit the Public Library in Boston for this purpose. It will contain very many valuable works of reference, and books too costly and rare to be put into circulation, but which will be consulted by those who visit the institution. It belongs to the management of a great public library to answer the inquiries and to facilitate the researches of persons of this class, and no small part of the time of some of its officers will be taken up in this way. An extensive knowledge of books, of ancient and foreign languages, and of science and literature generally, is indispensable for the performance of this duty in a satisfactory manner.

In addition to these duties, to which specific reference has been made, the general management and administration of a first class library require an efficient and responsible head, possessing a degree of ability and qualifications, intellectual and literary, of a higher order than can be expected, on the part of young persons of either sex, however intelligent, who perform services of routine for a moderate compensation.

The Trustees especially suggested an amendment of the existing statute so as to provide for "a responsible superintendent of the institution possessing the qualifications" which they had described, "and charged with the general administration of the Library under the Trustees." They deprecated the annual election of such an officer by the Council, as the existing ordinance required. They said:

The Trustees conceive that this is too precarious a tenure for such an office. The place of Librarian in a great public library nearly resembles that of a professor in a seminary of learning. The Trustees are not aware that it has ever been deemed expedient, in any part of the country to subject the teachers or the librarians in our universities and colleges to the uncertainty of an annual election, by

public bodies partaking largely of a political character. As the Trustees are directly responsible to the City for the condition and working of the institution, and as the duty of making the requisite regulations for its management and of seeing that they are carried into effect, devolves on them, they are of opinion, for obvious reasons, that the appointment of the Librarian and of any other officer, who may be established in pursuance of the foregoing recommendation, should be devolved upon the Board.

The memorial was referred to a Committee of the Council. In general, its argument was effective, and an amendment of the ordinance was reported and passed. The dispensing with an annual election by the Council in favor of an appointment by the Trustees was, however, not found expedient. The amended ordinance provided that the Council, whenever the Trustees should recommend such action, should elect a Superintendent of the Library, who, unless removed, should hold his office for one year, or until his successor was elected; and whenever the Trustees "shall recommend such an election," it was made incumbent upon them to "at the same time nominate to the City Council a suitable person for the said office." The Committee of the Council which reported the amended ordinance were evidently not quite so sure of the broad field which the Library was to occupy, as were the Trustees. They conceded the immediate need of a more efficient administrative head, but they said "whether this want will or will not be a permanent one we are not so sure." They therefore framed the ordinance so that by refraining from making a recommenda-

CHARLES COFFIN JEWETT.

Superintendent, 1858–1868. Born, Lebanon (Me.), August 12, 1816; died, Braintree (Mass.), January 9, 1868. Brown University, class of 1835; teacher (Uxbridge and Wrentham, Mass.), librarian (Andover, Mass.), 1835–1841; librarian, Brown University, 1842–1848; professor of modern languages, Brown University, 1843–1848; librarian (and assistant secretary), Smithsonian Institution, 1848–1858.

tion for the election of a Superintendent in any year the Trustees could suspend its operation, and they expressed the conviction that the Board "will be in the future, as they are now and have heretofore been, gentlemen as disinterested and as much alive to the best interests of the Public Library and possessing as just and true a regard for the economy of the public treasury, as the City Council." Nevertheless, they also provided that the City Council might terminate the employment of the Superintendent, whenever they deemed "that the public interest does not require the services of such officer." The amended ordinance also provided that if at any time the office of Superintendent became vacant, his duties also were to be performed by the Librarian.

Under the amended ordinance, Charles C. Jewett was elected Superintendent, the Librarian becoming a staff officer with duties similar to those now performed by the Chief of the Issue Department. Mr. Capen was retained in that position, and under the apportionment of functions immediately arranged, with the unanimous approval of the Trustees, between him and the Superintendent, the operations of the Library were conducted with entire harmony. Alluding to the doubt which had been felt by members of the Council as to the permanent necessity of a Superintendent, the Trustees, in their next report, "deem it proper to state, that the experience of a single year has furnished full confirmation of all the reasons" which they had urged in their memorial, "and that they cannot conceive of any

state of things, in which the office of Superintendent, as now constituted, will not be absolutely necessary, in order to the efficient administration of the Library."

The new building was virtually completed on the first of January, 1858, and on that day it was transferred from the control of the Commissioners who had supervised its construction to the City Government, and placed in the custody of the Trustees, for library uses, by appropriate ceremonies of dedication. Mr. Winthrop, after an address, delivered the keys to Alexander H. Rice, Mayor, who replied, and presented the keys to the Board of Trustees, in whose behalf Mr. Everett delivered an address of reception. In this address he referred to Franklin — his early sacrifices to obtain books and his efforts, later in life, to establish a popular circulating library in Philadelphia, "the mother of all North American subscription libraries," — read extracts from the Autobiography, and continuing said:

I claim the credit of having read from the first book opened in this hall; and what is more, sir, I mean to have the satisfaction of presenting the first volume given to the Library since it came into the care of the Trustees. In your presence, Mr. Mayor, and that of this vast assembly, on the first of January, 1858, I offer this copy of Franklin's Autobiography, in Sparks's edition, as a new year's gift to the Boston Public Library. Nay, sir, I am going to do more, and make the first, and perhaps the last, motion ever made in this hall; and that is, that every person present, of his own accord if of age, — with the consent of parent or guardian if a minor, — man, woman, boy, or girl, be requested, on going home, to select one good book, and, in memory of the

BUILDING ON BOYLSTON STREET.

Location of Library 1858–1895. The first building exclusively devoted to the Library. Charles K. Kirby, Architect. Constructed of brick, with brown sandstone dressings. Dedicated, January 1, 1858. Library removed in 1895. Building razed in 1899. The site is now occupied by the Colonial Theatre building.

THE BOYLSTON STREET BUILDING
LOCATION OF LIBRARY 1858–1895

poor boy who half fed himself to gratify his taste for reading, present it as a new year's gift to the Boston Public Library.

Naturally, such a motion, offered after Mr. Everett's eloquent allusion to Franklin, created much enthusiasm. It was unanimously adopted by acclamation, the audience expressing its satisfaction by cheers. In response to the suggestion contained in it, more than a thousand volumes were presented to the Library by a large number of individuals.

Although dedicated the new building was not yet ready for public use. The labor of transferring the books from Mason Street, and properly locating them in the new alcoves, was very great. The circulation of books from the old rooms ceased on the thirtieth of June, and on the seventeenth of September new registration books were opened at Boylston Street, and the new reading room was opened to the public. From the opening at Mason Street in 1854 up to June 30, 1858, 17,066 names had been registered of persons who desired reading-room privileges, and 15,765 names of borrowers for home use. Within that period, 364,324 volumes had been lent. Between the seventeenth of September and the close of the year, 3,175 additional names were registered of persons who desired to become borrowers. At the close of the year the Library contained 70,851 volumes and 17,938 pamphlets. The volumes received from Mr. Bates during the three years closing with 1858 numbered 26,618, and these, "purchased by his orders in the great book marts of Europe,"

formed "a library rarely equalled for the variety and importance of its contents; . . . rich in many departments heretofore almost inaccessible to the American student." In 1854 the Trustees had estimated the probable increase of the Library at 6,000 volumes annually, exclusive of pamphlets. The increase in 1855 was 6,396. In 1856, however, 15,463 volumes were added, 17,608 in 1857, and 15,163 in 1858.

Books were circulated for home use from the new building in December, 1858. The Library was separated into two divisions; the first, consisting of the books in most active demand for home use, was installed in the lower story of the building, and the other, chiefly reference works and volumes required in special investigation or for scholarly research, was reserved for the upper floor. Improvements and enlargements in the catalogue were put in process of execution; the rules and regulations for the use of the Library were revised and broadened. Late in the autumn of 1858 a printed finding list of the books in the Lower Hall was issued. The Upper Hall, however, was not opened until 1861, owing to the labor involved in the arrangement and cataloguing of the books. The first printed finding list of these books was issued in that year. The institution had emerged from its inchoate condition and assumed a permanent form. More than a thousand persons, upon an average, daily made use of its various departments.

CHAPTER III.

UPON the occupancy of the new building the accessions to the Library by gift rapidly increased, and the enlargement of the collection of books was promoted by liberal annual appropriations made by the City Council. Eight years after its establishment the Library contained more than 100,000 volumes. In certain departments, notably those of science and general literature, it excelled every other institution in the country except the Astor Library. It had become well known in literary circles throughout the United States, had established fraternal relations abroad, and was already a centre of attraction to strangers who visited the City.

The increase in the population of the City created enlarged demands upon the efficiency of the Library, which were met by a gradual extension of its functions. In respect to catalogues intended to promote the use of its constantly increasing collection of books, and to render its literary treasures available to the public, the Library, from the first, won a well-merited reputation. Supplementing the first printed catalogue, issued as has been said in 1854, and the catalogue of the Lower Hall collection in 1858, the first printed catalogue of the volumes in the Upper Hall, covering more than

74,000 titles, was published in 1861. Of this catalogue, the Examining Committee in 1863 remarked:

> It has been received and acknowledged in other parts of the United States and in Europe, by persons eminently fitted to pronounce judgment on its merits, as a contribution to the facilities for acquiring knowledge through the use of large libraries, such as has not been afforded elsewhere.

A supplemental catalogue was published in 1866, and in the same year the printing of finding lists for the Lower Hall was begun. The growth of the Library eventually made the use of a catalogue in book form impracticable, and that of the collection in the Upper Hall was abandoned. Finally a card catalogue of the entire Library superseded the general catalogue volumes. The public card catalogue of the Upper Hall was established in 1871. At first, this was in manuscript, but it was subsequently changed by the gradual substitution of print for writing, until the manuscript cards were superseded, in 1904, by cards wholly in print. The practice of issuing from time to time special catalogues, finding lists and selected bibliographies has in later years formed an important element in the work of the Library. A catalogue of the works on history, biography, geography, and travel, in the Lower Hall, the first catalogue with notes, was issued in 1873; the catalogue of the Ticknor collection of Spanish and Portuguese books, in 1879; and in this year also, the catalogue of the works of Shakespeare in the Barton collection was printed,

followed, in 1880, by a second part containing the titles of works about Shakespeare. The catalogue of the miscellaneous portion of the Barton collection appeared in 1888. In 1892, the catalogue of the Lewis collection was issued, also a new edition of the Lower Hall catalogue referred to above, and a finding list of French fiction. In 1894 a catalogue of books relating to architecture was published. The first number of the Bulletin appeared in 1867, issued as a quarterly until January 1, 1896, when the publication of a monthly bulletin was begun. In 1898 the first branch finding list, prepared under a new classification system adopted for the branch libraries, was published, and yearly supplements followed until a complete list of books common to the branches was issued in 1902. The first Annual List of New and Important Books added to the Library was issued January 1, 1898, and this list was published regularly until 1908. It presented a classified list of the principal books added during the year, brought forward from the monthly bulletins, and as a permanent yearly record of the current literature of importance in all languages it occupied a unique place among library finding lists. In 1908 the publication of quarterly bulletins was once more begun, superseding the monthly issues and the Annual List. In this latest series of quarterlies the titles, authors, and subjects are arranged alphabetically, in a single alphabet, as words are arranged in dictionaries, a plan not previously attempted in such a publication. The publication of brief weekly lists

of new books added to the Library was also begun in 1908.

The germ of the Printing and Binding Departments appeared with the employment in 1863 of Seth Goldsmith, a binder, in repair work, binding pamphlets, etc. In the same year there also came into use a hand printing-press and a small quantity of type and material, "with the occasional service of a person employed in the Library who was formerly a printer." Later, in years following 1875, the printing of the cards for the card catalogue was undertaken, at first in heliotypic facsimile of manuscript, and afterward from type set by hand by a printer working under contract within the Library building. This arrangement continued throughout the occupation of the Boylston Street building, and during that time the printed work of the Library, other than the card catalogue, issued from the press of Rockwell & Churchill, who held the contract for city printing. When the new building in Copley Square was occupied a fully equipped printing plant was erected, and since 1895 all of the work of the Library has been done in its own Printing Department. This Department is noteworthy in that from the beginning the type has been set by machinery, it being the first instance of the use of the linotype by any library. A Bindery was definitely established as a library department in 1869, and has grown from a small affair until at the present time it is fully equipped to execute all the various kinds of work required by the Library.

As the Library increased in size and efficiency, various defects in the method of administration became apparent. In 1863, the President of the Board, Mr. Everett, again urged the City Council to change the ordinance so as to give to the Trustees authority to appoint the chief executive officer, with permanent tenure, subject to removal by the Council for cause. The desired action was nevertheless deferred, and an amendment to the ordinance in 1863 merely provided that the Trustees should annually nominate "a Superintendent and Librarian," the Superintendent to remain the chief executive, and the Librarian to have, as before, the immediate custody of the books in the Lower Hall, that is, of the circulating department. The Trustees, however, continued to urge the desired modification, and an ordinance was passed in 1865 authorizing them to appoint both officers, with such compensation as the Council might fix; and finally, by an ordinance passed in 1869, taking effect January 1, 1870, the provision making it obligatory for the Board to appoint the second officer was stricken out, leaving the Superintendent as the sole executive head of the institution, to be appointed annually by the Trustees and removable at their pleasure, although his compensation was still to be determined by the City Council. Summing up the subsequent experience of the Board, the Trustees, in their report for 1877, said:

The history of the institution since, with its accumulated experience, and notwithstanding the conceded neces-

sity of the most intelligent and independent adaptation of every fibre of its organization to popular education and improvement, has not changed this conclusion of the government. The responsibility of management still rests by ordinance with the Trustees, but they are denied the power of executing the duties assigned them in giving a suitable compensation for services, of which, from their nature, they only can be the correct and proper judges.

This fact in the history of the Library is not stated in the way of complaint. The Trustees cannot be sufficiently grateful for the constant liberality of the government which, for twenty-five years, has enabled them to keep safely the donations of its benefactors, and by its generous help in the purchase of popular books to fulfil one of the most important functions of the institution. Besides this, in what was even more important than the largest collection of volumes in the country, it has appropriated funds for skilled labor, for personal attendance, and for suitable catalogues whereby such books as were in the possession of the Library became available for the largest number of people in the most intelligent and best way.

In the exercise of the powers conferred upon them by the ordinance of 1863, the Trustees had selected all their subordinates, and down to 1877 had determined their salaries, except the salary of the chief administrative officer, at that time and from 1858 termed the Superintendent. During the winter of 1877 the City Council adopted an order regulating certain salaries within the Library, and the question at once arose as to whether or not such an order superseded an ordinance. Pending the settlement of this question, the Examining Committee of the Library, acting independently of the Trustees, took up the question of administration,

and their report, prepared by the late Dr. James R. Chadwick, after alluding to the inadequacy of the salary then paid to the Superintendent, and summarizing certain results of the Council's action, closed as follows:

The above facts have been here advanced, in order to indicate the nature of the danger to which the Library is liable to be exposed by the exigencies of the public service and the action of the City Council or its representatives. In view of such events the committee urgently recommends that the Library be placed upon an independent basis, either by an act of incorporation under the State laws, or by such measures as shall be found expedient.

Justin Winsor was then Superintendent, and his statement of the incidents of the year, and of the change of management which resulted, is as follows:

The library's success proved the possibility of organizing, for very large free use, an extensive collection of books; and none of the free libraries of England, whose system is of even date of origin with the American, has wholly matched it in development. It soon became an anxious question how far its management could remain with safety in close connection with the city government. Some of its original friends and organizers very early saw signs of coming evil, and thought the fatal issue was sure in due time to arrive. In 1877 it came. It was a period of general financial distress. The cost of maintaining the library was large, although its expenses had fallen far short of being commensurate with its increase of accessions and attendant business. In fact the cost of circulating its books, proportioned to the grand total of expenditure, was only two-fifths in 1877 of what it had been in 1867. It seemed to the best citizens, however, that the time had come to economize. The library had a management which was ready to apportion its expenses to the

exigencies which had arisen; but the city council assumed to regulate the details of a method of economy, and so encroached upon the necessary functions of the management, and did it with such a lack of knowledge, that confusion and injustice resulted. In this contingency Mr. Winsor resigned, and accepted the librarianship of Harvard University. The friends of the library rallied in its defence; and even the city council on a sober second thought, did not oppose an application to the State Legislature for an act of incorporation for the library, which was in due time secured. This practically limited the interference of the city government to defining the gross limit of expenditures, so far as they were met from the city treasury.

It was obvious that the institution had passed beyond the period wherein it could be successfully administered under the existing conditions. In 1878 Mayor Henry L. Pierce, in his inaugural address, suggested legislative action for the purpose of placing the Library on a permanent basis, and upon petition of the City the Trustees were made a Corporation, by Chapter 114 of the Acts of that year, approved on the fourth of April, as follows:

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON.

Be it enacted, &c., as follows:

SECTION 1. The trustees of the public library of the city of Boston for the time being are hereby made a corporation by the name of the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston; and said trustees and their successors in office shall continue a body corporate for the purposes hereinafter set forth, with all the powers and privileges and subject to all the duties, restrictions and liabilities in the general laws relating to such corporations.

JUSTIN WINSOR.

Superintendent, 1868–1877. Born, Boston, January 2, 1831; died, Cambridge (Mass.), October 22, 1897. Harvard College, class of 1853; author; Trustee of the Library, 1867–1868; Librarian of Harvard College Library, 1877–1897.

A W Elson & Co, Boston

Justin Winsor

SECTION 2. Said corporation shall have authority to take and hold real and personal estate to an amount not exceeding one million dollars, which may be given, granted, bequeathed or devised to it, and accepted by the trustees for the benefit of the public library of the city of Boston or any branch library, or any purpose connected therewith. Money received by it shall be invested by the treasurer of the city of Boston under the direction of the finance committee of said city; and all securities belonging to said corporation shall be placed in the custody of said treasurer; *provided, always*, that both the principal and income thereof shall be appropriated according to the terms of the donation, devise or bequest, under the direction of said corporation.

SECTION 3. The trustees of the public library shall be seven in number. In the month of April in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-eight and annually thereafter in the month of January, the city council shall elect, by concurrent vote of the two branches, one member of the board of aldermen, and one member of the common council, to be members of said board of trustees, to hold office during the remainder of the municipal year in which they are elected, and until others are elected in their places. And in the month of April in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, the mayor shall appoint, subject to the confirmation of the city council, five citizens of Boston, not members of the city council, to be members of the board of trustees of the public library, one of whom shall hold office for five years, one for four years, one for three years, and one for two years, and one for one year; and upon such election and such appointment and confirmation, the terms of office of the trustees of the public library then holding office shall cease and determine. And annually thereafter, in the month of April in each year, the mayor shall appoint, subject to the confirmation of the city council, one citizen at large as a trustee of the public library, to serve for a term of five years from the first Monday in May in the year in which he shall be appointed. The trustees shall at all times be subject to

removal from office for cause by a vote of two-thirds of each branch of the city council present and voting thereon. Whenever any vacancy shall occur in said board of trustees by death, resignation or otherwise, said vacancy shall be filled by the election or appointment, in the manner aforesaid, of another trustee, who shall hold office for the residue of the unexpired term. No member of said board of trustees shall receive any pecuniary compensatoin for his services.

SECTION 4. The members of said board shall meet for organization on the first Monday of each May, and choose one of their number as president. They shall have power to make such rules and regulations relating to said public library and its branches, and its officers and servants, and to fix and enforce penalties for the violation of such rules and regulations, as they may deem expedient: *provided*, that the same shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this act, and shall be subject at all times to such limitations, restrictions and amendments as the city council may direct.

SECTION 5. The said trustees shall have the general care and control of the central public library now located in Boylston street in said city and of all branches thereof, which have been or which may hereafter be established, together with the buildings and rooms containing the same, and the fixtures and furniture connected therewith, and also of the expenditures of the moneys appropriated therefor.

SECTION 6. The said board of trustees may appoint a superintendent or librarian with such assistants and subordinate officers as they may think necessary or expedient, and may remove the same, and fix their compensation: *provided*, that the amount thus paid shall not exceed the sum appropriated by the city council for that item of expense, and the income of any moneys which may lawfully be appropriated for the same purpose from funds or property held by the said trustees under the provisions of this act.

SECTION 7. The city council shall have power to pass such ordinances not inconsistent herewith or repugnant

to other laws of the Commonwealth as to the duties and authority of said board as they may from time to time deem expedient.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

By an amendment to the City Charter, Chapter 266 of the Acts of 1885, the members of the City Council became ineligible for membership upon executive boards, and the number of Trustees was thus reduced from seven to five. Chapter 418 of the Acts of 1890 affected the tenure of the Trustees by the general provision "that all members of boards and all trustees shall hold office for such terms as may be specified in the statutes creating them, and until their respective successors are appointed and confirmed, but such terms shall begin with the first day of May in the year of appointment. . . . Any officer appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen . . . may be removed by the Mayor for such cause as he shall deem sufficient and shall assign in his order for removal." By the latest amendment to the City Charter, Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909, the Trustees, like other members of municipal boards, are appointed by the Mayor without confirmation by the City Council, and the appointment is subject to the certification of the Civil Service Commission of the Commonwealth, to the effect "that they have made a careful inquiry into the qualifications of the appointee, and that in their opinion he is a recognized expert, or that he is qualified by education, training or experience for said office, as the case may be, and that they

approve his appointment." Section 5 of the original act of incorporation was amended by Section 1 of Chapter 60 of the Acts of 1887, so as to read as follows:

> The said trustees shall have the general care and control of the central public library in said city and of all branches thereof which have been established and the fixtures connected therewith and also of the expenditures of money appropriated therefor.

Under the rapid growth of the Library the new building on Boylston Street was found inadequate. At first only the lower range of alcoves in the large hall was shelved, but the number of books increased so rapidly that it was soon necessary to provide additional shelf room. Within two years large numbers of volumes were simply deposited on the floor, no shelves being available. A generous appropriation was made by the City Council, and the two upper ranges were shelved in 1860, and the continued rapid increase led the Trustees to assume that the available space in the great hall would be filled within six or eight years. There was no special arrangement for lighting the interior of the alcoves, and this omission was soon found to be a serious defect. The shelving itself was carried so high as to require the use of movable steps. The ventilation, in view of the large number of persons who frequented the building, was exceedingly poor, and was the subject of frequent investigation without satisfactory remedy. The working space provided for the executive force was very limited,

no convenient work-rooms had been arranged, and therefore the galleries and alcoves, which had to be used for cataloguing, repair work, and the other routine work of administration, soon became crowded.

Under these circumstances, in 1867, the Examining Committee, by Justin Winsor, its Chairman, suggested the occupancy of vacant land in the rear of the existing building, and certain rearrangements in the original plan. Nothing was done, however, and the Trustees in 1869 referred to the matter as follows:

> It is much to be regretted that the efforts of the City government to provide larger accommodations for the present needs and future growth of this institution have so far proved unavailing. The Boylston Street site is sufficiently convenient for the purposes of extension, were it not wanting in the two great requisites of light and air. Without obtaining these necessities, the Trustees have declined to recommend any further expenditure for building upon the present lot. Yet the Library must have more room. . . . Under these conditions, it may become the part of economy to obtain land adjacent to the present site, although the expenditure for the same may possibly be very considerable.

It was suggested that relief might be obtained by removing the Upper Hall collection to another site, but after careful consideration this idea was abandoned, although the Trustees thought that it might become expedient within a few years to provide rooms elsewhere for the reading room and circulating department of the Library.

A plan was carried out in 1872 for subdividing the alcoves, thus increasing the capacity of

the shelves by about 125,000 volumes, without extending the area of the rooms devoted to books, and at the same time changes were authorized in the Lower Hall, providing two large rooms and six small ones, and otherwise improving the facilities for operation. Immediately thereafter much needed precautions were taken, by the use of fireproof shutters and other means, to protect the building against fire. In this year, also, land was purchased on the easterly side of the building with a view to enlargement in that direction. During the year 1874 the capacity of the building was increased by the erection of a tower in the rear, at the southwest corner, and in 1876, to accommodate the pressing needs of the Catalogue Department, an extension of wood, covered with sheet iron, was made behind the Bates Hall floor, providing also additional space on the level of the main floor. Meantime, the insufficiency of the accommodations for the public became increasingly apparent. The waiting room was frequently overcrowded, and the reading room which, in accordance with the provisions of Mr. Bates's will, had at first been fitted with 100 chairs, had become far too limited in its accommodations for the purposes to which it was devoted.

The possibility of occupying the land purchased in 1872 was suggested by the Trustees in 1875, but in view of the financial depression the matter was postponed. In 1877 the plan was again considered. In his report for 1878 the Acting Li-

brarian, Dr. Samuel A. Green, expressed the opinion that the administration of the Library "should be shaped with a view to its transfer at the earliest possible period, to an edifice which shall be safe from fire risks, both within and without, planned and built upon complete principles of library economy and architecture, and to be the permanent home of the Library at all future times."

In 1879, Mayor Frederick O. Prince, in his inaugural, referred to the necessity for more ample accommodations for the Library, and said that the enlargement of the existing building was inexpedient, since it would involve considerable expense and afford merely temporary relief. He suggested the removal of the Lower Hall library and the reading room to some convenient place, until it became possible to erect a new building. During the following year it became clear that the problem could only be solved satisfactorily by the erection of a new building of sufficient capacity to provide for the needs of the Library for many years. The City, through the Mayor, and the Trustees of the Library in their corporate capacity, therefore addressed petitions to the Legislature, upon which there was granted to the City by Chapter 222, of the Acts of 1880, approved April 22, a lot of land at the southwesterly corner of Dartmouth and Boylston Streets, upon the condition, however, that the new structure should be begun before the lapse of three years. The full text of this Act follows:

SECTION 1. The city of Boston is hereby granted

perpetual right to hold, occupy and control, free of rent or charge by the Commonwealth, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining thereon a building for the use of the public library of said city, a parcel of land now owned by the Commonwealth and situated in that part of said city called the Back Bay, on the southerly corner of Dartmouth and Boylston streets, bounded north-westerly by Boylston Street two hundred and sixty-four feet, north-easterly by Dartmouth Street one hundred and twenty-five feet, south-easterly by a private passage way twenty-five feet in width, two hundred and sixty-four feet, and south-westerly by other land of the Commonwealth one hundred and twenty-five feet, and containing thirty-three thousand square feet, more or less, together with all the right, title and interest of the Commonwealth in that part of the said passage way adjoining said parcel, and with such rights as the Commonwealth may possess to close the same. The said library building and land shall be under the care and control of the trustees of the public library of the city of Boston, under the provisions of chapter one hundred and fourteen of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and seventy-eight. This grant is made, however, subject to the following stipulations, namely: — the city of Boston shall within three years from the date of the passage of this act commence the erection of a library building on said parcel of land, and shall in respect to such erection be subject to the restrictions heretofore contained in other conveyances by the Commonwealth of its land upon Boylston Street, and shall thereafter appropriately lay out and cultivate such ground around it as may not be occupied by the building itself, and shall thereafter keep said grounds and building in a neat and ornamental condition; and that upon the opening of said library all the citizens of the Commonwealth shall have the perpetual right of access thereto, free of charge, under such reasonable regulations as said trustees may from time to time establish.

SECTION 2. In case the city of Boston shall after due notice given fail to commence the erection of the library

building within three years, or shall use said land, or any portion thereof, for any purpose foreign to the uses for which it is granted, it shall be lawful for the Commonwealth, by its proper officers and servants, to take appropriate action in the courts of the Commonwealth, to the end that said parcel of land, or portion thereof, may be declared forfeited by the city of Boston, and the title therein be re-vested in the Commonwealth.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

The passage of this Act practically settled the question of site. From that time forward attention was turned toward the character of the new building to which, finally, the Library was to be removed.

The Trustees were not ready to present immediately an outline of a plan. The subject was taken under consideration, however, and became at once a matter of intense local interest. In view of its importance, unanimity of opinion was not to be expected. Not only the Trustees, but members of the City Council, and the public at large, were drawn into the discussion, which covered the questions of location, architectural treatment, practical arrangement, and the limit of cost of the new building. The next year, 1881, the Examining Committee took up the subject and strongly urged immediate action. They alluded to the conflict of opinion which had already found expression as to the expediency and wisdom of accepting the gift of a new site under the conditions imposed by the Legislature, the objections relating principally to

the removal from the existing location in Boylston Street, and suggested a compromise based upon the reservation of the existing building for the circulating department and reading room, and the erection of a new and better edifice on the proffered lot, to receive the special collections. The Trustees also, but not unanimously, reported their views, and stated that they had asked permission of the City Government to allow the services of the City Architect to be retained in consultation with the Board, in preparing plans and estimates for a suitable fireproof building. Of the existing building, they said:

> The Boylston Street structure is one of the ornaments of the City, externally and internally, but is a signal instance of inconvenient and costly construction. It was, however, built upon such information and knowledge as were accessible at the time, and has furnished the general model for other large libraries in this country. But the theories upon which it was based have not withstood the proof of service. Its adaptation to its theoretic uses has been entirely insufficient. In one point, and that not the least important, it did honor to the public spirit which intended that the best should be done, and contributed the means for its erection. No similar edifice can meet the present and coming wants of the institution, and it is to be hoped that none such will be attempted.

It became obvious that the land granted by the Commonwealth was not sufficient for the intended purpose, and a special act, Chapter 143 of 1882, approved April 10, authorized the City to acquire land by purchase. Its text follows:

> SECTION 1. The city of Boston is hereby authorized and empowered to take and hold by purchase or otherwise,

at any time within two years from the passage of this act, so much land within its limits as it may deem necessary for the erection thereon of a public library and for a yard for the same; and said city may appropriate and use therefor any land now owned by it.

SECTION 2. Said city shall, within thirty days from the time when it shall take any parcel or parcels of land under this act file in the office of the register of deeds for the county of Suffolk, and cause to be recorded therein, a description of the land so taken as certain as is required in a common conveyance of land, with a statement of the purpose for which said land is taken; which description and statement shall be signed by the mayor of said city. The said city shall be liable to pay all damages that shall be sustained by any person by reason of the taking of land as aforesaid; such damages to be ascertained and determined in the manner provided for ascertaining and determining damages in case of the laying out, altering or discontinuing of ways within the city of Boston.

SECTION 3. The provisions of law in relation to the assessment of betterments shall not be applicable to the taking of land under this act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

On the first of December, 1881, the City Council directed the Committee on the Public Library to consult the Trustees concerning a new building. The City Government, however, did not at that time indicate by its action whether it intended to occupy the site originally granted by the Legislature, or to acquire additional land as authorized by the enabling Act, and nothing conclusive was done. In anticipation of construction, the City Architect, George A. Clough, collected data

relating to the problem by the examination of important library buildings erected elsewhere. The purchase of additional land was finally authorized by the Council; but, although the City made an appropriation in excess of the taxable valuation of the property, the negotiations with the owners were not at that time successful.

It was suggested that it might be possible to adapt the High and Latin School building to library purposes, and by an order of the Council, March 9, 1882, the Trustees were requested to report upon that proposition. On the second of May the Board, one member dissenting, authorized an adverse report, but unavoidable delays, principally due to the preparation of drawings and the collection of data which it seemed desirable to include in both the majority and minority reports, prevented the papers reaching the City Council until October, and on the eighteenth of December they were referred to the next City Government. The majority report, City Document 111, 1882, besides condemning the High and Latin School proposition, considered at some length the requirements of a new building, suggested that it need not occupy more than two-thirds of the available land, and, although many constructional details were only approximately treated, presented drawings prepared by the City Architect, Mr. Clough, which in their main outlines were satisfactory to the Trustees. The dissenting member, William H. Whitmore, submitted a minority report, City Document 111 B,

1882, forcibly advocating the adaptation of the High and Latin School building, and supporting his contention by drawings embodying his ideas.

On the twenty-sixth of February, 1883, the Mayor transmitted to the Board of Aldermen an order and vote passed by the Trustees of the Library on the twenty-fourth, approving plans prepared by the City Architect, as embodied in their majority report just summarized, for a building estimated to cost $450,000; and recommending the taking by the City of land fronting on Dartmouth Street and St. James Avenue, now Blagden Street, thus considerably enlarging the site as compared with that originally granted by the Commonwealth. This order and vote were in due course referred to the Committee on the Library of the City Government, and a public hearing given thereon on the twenty-eighth of February. At this meeting, Mr. Greenough, President of the Trustees, supported by many leading citizens, urged immediate action. A favorable report was made by the Committee on the fifth of March. Orders embodying the propositions of the Trustees were passed without delay, an appropriation of $180,000 was made for acquiring the additional land and $450,000 for the building, these sums to be secured by loan. On the twenty-first of April the City took formal possession of the site originally granted, and also of adjacent estates obtained by purchase, and in June, 1883, the Trustees reported that:

The perfected plans, designed to fulfil the large expec-

tations of the proposed structure, it is hoped will be ready for acceptance, under the terms of the loan, before the beginning of another year.

The extended movement toward the erection of library buildings, stimulated by the munificent gifts of private donors and accelerated by generous grants of public funds, which has become so marked within the last two decades, and which is still progressing, had then hardly begun. The study of library architecture, especially as related to the practical details of planning, had not received the close attention of architects. Indeed, no architect in the country had then built such a structure as was proposed. The importance of the Library itself, the high ideal of its Trustees, which they hoped to realize in the new edifice, the liberal attitude of the City Government in providing funds for its erection, the nature of the site, fronting an open square in the heart of the City, aroused interest far beyond the municipal limits. The project was no longer a merely local one. In the act conveying by gift the land of the Commonwealth to the City, it was provided that upon the opening of the Library in its new building, all the citizens of the Commonwealth should have perpetual right of free access thereto, under such reasonable regulations as the Trustees might establish. Without question, this was to be the chief library building in a Commonwealth which was rapidly becoming, — largely through the influence of the Boston institution during its comparatively short period of successful growth, —

a Commonwealth of public libraries. It was soon obvious that it was to be one of the most important buildings in the United States, and that the architectural treatment of the problem must be adequate to the position which the structure would necessarily assume.

The next step, therefore, after some more or less unimportant discussion, covered an architectural competition under which, the original time limit for the reception of designs having been extended, 20 sets of plans were received by August 1, 1884, based upon specifications issued by a joint committee whose powers and duties had expired with the City Government of the preceding year, and had not been renewed. Various complications, of which this termination of the committee was one, led to delay in the selection of the preferred designs. Finally, four successful plans became the property of the City, but no one was deemed available as a whole. Hence, as will be seen, the architectural competition was of no direct practical value. Other schemes were subsequently proposed, and on the thirty-first of the following March, the City Architect, at that time Arthur H. Vinal, was directed to prepare plans for a building, and to submit them to the Trustees of the Library for their approval. So much time had elapsed that in 1883 it had become necessary to remove any question of possessive rights to the site, which had been granted under a limitation as to the time within which the building must be begun. By the action of the Legislature,

Chapter 141 of 1883, approved April 21, the period of occupation was extended to April, 1886.

Drawings, hardly more than preliminary sketches, were prepared, and although these never met the approval of the Trustees, the Board, impelled to action on account of the expiration of the time limit, and the consequent necessity of beginning the work of construction, approved, on the nineteenth of May, 1886, certain plans for foundations and piling, and at the close of the year reported that a good and sufficient foundation had been completed and covered in for protection against the winter. The internal arrangements of the building had, however, not been determined upon, no plans had been accepted, and an elevation had not been projected acceptable to the Trustees. Therefore, remarking that, since the building was to be built for great public uses, and for a long duration of time, "it should have a consistent elegance of its own which will be in sufficient harmony with the other noble structures in the finest square of which our City can at present boast," they suggested that before proceeding further, complete specifications and details should be prepared in order to determine whether the balance remaining within the limit of expenditure fixed by the City Council would be sufficient to erect such a building as would prove satisfactory to the community.

The various delays, partly due to differences of opinion not yet harmonized, as to the form the new building was to assume, uncertainties as to what

the outcome might be, and the growing feeling on the part of influential citizens that the Trustees, who beyond all others, were acquainted with the needs of the Library, ought to be intrusted with the full control of the building operations, affected public sentiment to such a degree, that within a few months the prospective method of construction was entirely changed. A special act of the Legislature passed March 10, Chapter 60 of 1887, placed the responsibility wholly upon the Trustees of the Library, and empowered them, under careful restrictions, as to the beginning of the work before the preparation of complete plans, and as to obtaining definite proposals for the execution of the work, "to select and employ an architect or architects to design said building and supervise the construction, and a superintendent or superintendents to take charge of and approve the work." Certain citizens of Boston had petitioned for this legislation, the Trustees declining to take any official action in aid of the petition; and, although two members of the Board appeared before the Legislative Committee to which the petition was referred, it was understood that they did so as witnesses only, in an unofficial capacity. The City Council made no objection to the grant to the Trustees of the proposed new powers. Under the authority given, McKim, Mead & White, of New York, were appointed architects, and the preparation of designs was at once begun.

The enterprise, to which the Trustees were

now committed, assumed larger proportions the more it was seriously considered. As they afterward stated in one of their special reports upon construction:

> They were pioneers in the attempt to solve the embarrassing problem of how to combine in one structure two essentially distinct and different purposes. They had not only to provide for the proper housing of a very large and continually increasing collection of volumes, for this they might have found examples to study, or to imitate, in the Old World, but they had to endeavor to do what has never been attempted, — to make this vast storehouse of learning accessible and useful to all the people of a great city. . . . The results have not been obtained by intuition. . . . They are the slow and settled issues of long and faithful labors, necessitating modifications and changes, which have suggested themselves as the work went on.

Six months elapsed before an outline plan was fixed upon. Much study was given to large European library buildings, that might serve, in a measure, at least, as precedents. A year had passed before a general plan of the structure was ready to be submitted to the Trustees, but drawings as then formulated, together with a tentative estimate, shown by subsequent events to have covered a building far different from that finally built, were presented in December, 1887. Afterwards, many changes were made. It was becoming evident that the appropriation already authorized would not suffice for the erection of a building commensurate with the needs of the Library and appropriate to the dignity of the City.

Early in 1888 the City Council ordered that

the Mayor request the Trustees to begin and complete such part of the work as could be done, within the balance of appropriation remaining unexpended. Upon this proposition a hearing was given by a Committee of the Council, and the plans and designs for the building fully examined. The Trustees submitted no estimate of total cost, but the Architects, moved by considerations of urgency, presented, April 23, 1888, an estimate, more or less hastily prepared, amounting to $1,165,955, and, acting upon this, the Council authorized the Board to begin construction, limiting the total expenditure, however, to the estimated amount. In May, the Trustees began the work of construction. Although the foundations already completed bore no direct relation to the structure now determined upon, the material was utilized as far as possible. On the twenty-eighth of November the corner-stone of the new building was laid with addresses delivered in the Old South Church, Boylston Street, by Frederick O. Prince, President of the Trustees, and by Hugh O'Brien, Mayor; and a poem, written for the occasion, was read by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Gradually, as the work of construction proceeded, it appeared that the estimates, prepared in haste for the use of the Council, were fallacious in many important particulars, and that the cost would considerably exceed the specified sum. The Trustees were of the opinion that since legislation was needed to authorize a loan, the City Council should take the initiative. Pending such action, however,

citizens asked for it by legislative petition, which was not opposed by the City, and the Legislature, by Chapter 68 of the Acts of 1889, approved March 1, authorized the City to borrow $1,000,000 outside the debt limit then existing. Subsequently this was found insufficient, a contingency which seems not to have been unexpected by those familiar with the work, and even anticipated by statements made to the Legislative Committee before the loan of $1,000,000 was authorized. In December, 1890, the Trustees informed the Mayor that $850,000 additional would be required to complete the building, and suggested that the City Council authorize a petition to the Legislature for leave to increase the loan to this extent. After due consideration and a full investigation of the proceedings up to that point, this course was taken, and for the second time legislative permission was given to borrow $1,000,000 outside the standing debt limit. This was authorized by Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1891, approved May 11.

The final step, so far as related to finances, had now been taken. Between the original proposition contemplating no greater expenditure than $450,000 for the building, a sum then considered liberal, and that involving more than two millions, there was a wide gap. To bridge it had required the strenuous experience of six years. Whether, if the expense of the undertaking had been foreseen, the City Council would have authorized it, may be doubted; but there is no doubt that the building, as

at last completed, was honestly constructed, the City receiving full equivalent for the expenditure, and the result was not open to more criticism than all large undertakings provoke. Such mistakes as were made were due to inexperience in dealing with the intricate and novel problems involved, and to the not unnatural expansion of the project as the work went on. The spirit which moved the Trustees and their views as to the merit of the design may be indicated by a brief extract from their report for 1891:

> While the trustees have been of the opinion that the building should be monumental, and a temple worthy of the treasures it contains, and worthy of the citizens of Boston who own it, they have never lost sight of the practical side of the question, or sacrificed utility to mere architectural effect. . . . Whether the architect has succeeded in producing the best possible architectural effect, by so arranging the plan, the masses, and the enrichments as to impart to his work interest, unity, grandeur, and beauty, is a question upon which, as in the case of all important buildings, opinions must of necessity differ; but it may be fairly said the new building will compare favorably with any contemporary structure.

From 1891 onward the work proceeded, not without difficulty, but practically without interruption. The structure was ready for occupancy in 1895. The building, as an architectural monument, was found entirely worthy to stand as the centre of the intellectual activities of the City, and to contain the rich collections of the Library, now, for the first time, adequately housed. Its mural decorations and sculptured adornment, the work of eminent artists of international fame, provided for, but not at that

time finished and even now incomplete, fitly supplemented the work of its distinguished architects. The late Richard M. Hunt, one of the leading architects of the world, speaking of the new building in an address before the Architectural League of New York, said:

> The noble edifice . . . is a notable example, a landmark to which future generations will point with pride; an enduring proof of the cultivated taste of our time, and a glorious monument to the well-deserved fame of its designers.

This may stand as a fair expression of the opinions of competent judges. The Examining Committee of 1894 put upon record their congratulations to the Trustees in the following words:

> The Trustees are to be congratulated that they are reaching the termination of long, arduous, and varied services connected with the new building, and that such a noble end crowns their work. Thanks are due to them, not only from Boston, but from all who esteem truth and propriety in design, for their choice of style. . . . They have . . . given us, especially in the interior, grace and dignity, in a style associated with one of the grand eras of human progress. . . . In variety of departments, in value and completeness, as well as in size, we have here one of the great libraries of the world. Honorable public service and distinguished achievement have, for more than forty years, characterized the Board of Trustees, and to-day . . . we can offer congratulations, with full hope and confidence in the future, for a grand success, secured for civilization as well as for Boston.

In 1883, when the original appropriation was made for a new building, the Trustees were William W. Greenough, Samuel A. B. Abbott, George

B. Chase, James Freeman Clarke, James J. Flynn, Henry W. Haynes, and Charles V. Whitten. Of these, Mr. Abbott alone remained in office when the building was ready for occupancy in 1895.

Messrs. Flynn and Whitten were members elected for one-year terms by the City Council, under the practice then existing. Mr. Flynn retired by resignation in 1883, and died soon after. He had rendered practical and efficient service in aid of a projected new building to front on Copley Square, warmly recognized by his colleagues in their report for 1884. Mr. Flynn was succeeded by Godfrey Morse, and later Mr. Whitten was succeeded by Edward J. Jenkins. Neither of these was long in service, since under the operation of the new City Charter in 1885 the Board was reduced to five members, all of whom were appointed by the Mayor, Messrs. Greenough, Abbott, Clarke, and Haynes continuing, with William H. Whitmore, once before a member of the Board by virtue of his election by the City Council. Mr. Whitmore resigned January 10, 1889, and was succeeded by William R. Richards, who remained a member until after the occupancy of the new building in 1895.

During the autumn months of 1894 some of the smaller collections were removed from Boylston Street to the new building. On the fourteenth day of December the removal of the main body of the books was begun, and completed by the twenty-eighth of January following, in such a way as to avoid the loss or misplacement of any volumes. The

moving of the machinery and material of the bindery was completed between 12 o'clock noon of one day and eight o'clock in the morning of the next, at which time all the bindery employees were at work as usual. The removal of the Catalogue and Ordering Departments, begun Monday, December 24, was completed Wednesday, December 26.

Necessary changes in the catalogue cards, to adapt them to their new position, were quickly made, and during the entire progress of removal hardly any loss or injury to library property was sustained. In order that the inconvenience or deprivation of privilege to the public might be reduced as much as possible, arrangements were made so that it was unnecessary to close the old building until January 24, or but four days only, before removal to the new building was completed; although the Lower Hall was closed on the seventeenth of January. During the week beginning February 1, the new building was opened for inspection. On the fourth of March the issue of books for home use was begun there, and on the eleventh the building was opened throughout, except the Newspaper Room, which was not opened until the third of May, the Lecture Hall which was first used on the seventeenth of May, and the rooms on the Special Libraries floor, which remained closed until the fourth of November. For some weeks the evening service was interrupted on account of the incomplete condition of the electric light plant.

The first lecture in the new building was given

in the Barton Room, February 23, 1898, followed, before the opening of the Lecture Hall, by another in the Barton Room and three in the Fine Arts Exhibition Room. In each case the lecturer was provided by the Unity Art Club. When the Lecture Hall was formally opened, May 17, 1899, the programme included the unveiling of the bust of Walter Scott, presented to the Library by the Westminster (England) Committee on the Scott Memorial. During the year 1899 the hall was used for various lectures. In 1900 a course of free lectures was given under the auspices of the Trustees, on various subjects, followed by a second course on Methods of Municipal Administration, and also by a course under the auspices of the Unity Art Club. Since 1900 free lectures have been given each year, arranged in connection with the Fine Arts Department, with the coöperation of different societies and individual lecturers, as an important part of the work of the Library.

The years during which the new building was under construction had not been otherwise uneventful. Mr. Winsor retired in July, 1878. The Trustees, in their next report, remarked: "Although every effort was made by the Trustees and the City Government to retain him in office, he preferred accepting the librarianship at Cambridge, which in his judgment was more permanent and more agreeable in its relations." The Trustees found difficulty in filling the position. In their report for 1878 they said:

In making a selection of a successor, there were but few competent bibliographers in the country, and fewer still who added to that accomplishment a large administrative ability. The very few whose claims might be considered by the Trustees were already occupied in positions where their services were approximately rewarded by a higher compensation than had been appropriated as the salary for the most important librarianship on the continent. Of large consulting or reference libraries there were but three or four in the country of great general value. Of popular libraries there was none which served so large a constituency or which spread such a collection of treasures so broadcast among the people. It required no argument to prove that the position of Superintendent or Librarian could not easily be filled. The names presented to the Board did not, in their judgment, include any one either competent for the work, or who was not already in the service of some other institution providing a sufficient compensation.

In the meantime, Dr. Samuel A. Green, of the Board of Trustees, rendered disinterested executive service as librarian. After the expiration of his period of service, September 30, 1878, Mellen Chamberlain was appointed Librarian, resigning September 30, 1890. No successor was appointed until April 13, 1892, when Theodore F. Dwight became Librarian, resigning in April, 1894. In February, 1895, the Trustees appointed Herbert Putnam. His experience in library management, and skill as an executive officer were immediately directed to the problems of organization and expansion presented by the Library in its new quarters.

The number of volumes in the Library steadily increased and December 31, 1894, aggregated

610,375, of which 457,740 were in the Central Library. The direct circulation for home use from the Central Library in 1894 was 261,717 volumes. Besides these, there were 6,033 volumes issued in that year from the Central Library through the branches, and 25,595 volumes from the Central Library through delivery stations.

February 6, 1889, the Bates Hall Reading Room was opened on Sundays from two until nine o'clock P. M.; and on December 16, 1889, the evening service was initiated by opening this room until nine o'clock daily. The question of Sunday opening had been under consideration for some time. The proposal was strongly opposed by those to whom it seemed a radical innovation, although earnestly advocated by others. When actually carried into effect however no evil results were noticed. The extension of library privileges was appreciated and no further opposition manifested. Later, as to the evening service, the Trustees reported that the number of persons who at first availed themselves of these privileges was large enough to secure the success of the experiment, and it was soon found that the Library was used, both in the evening and on Sundays, by many persons, who, on account of conditions of employment or for other reasons, could not visit the building at other times. In April, 1895, after the removal to the new building, all the public departments were opened in the evening and on Sunday, and in October, 1895, the evening hours were extended from nine to 10 o'clock.

The severe test of use soon made it obvious that minor defects in the new building must be overcome by changes in the arrangement of the executive offices, appliances for the rapid delivery of books to readers, and in some other directions, for which the Legislature in 1898, by Chapter 475 of the Acts of 1898, approved May 27, authorized a special appropriation of $100,000, and this sum was devoted to the purposes mentioned. The augmented accommodations now furnished, as compared with those provided in the building on Boylston Street, included shelving for more than 1,000,000 volumes, in comparison with less than half a million; facilities for direct access to nearly 200,000 volumes in comparison with less than 6,000; a greatly enlarged seating capacity for readers; and entirely new departments in the Newspaper Room, Children's Rooms, and rooms devoted to the special libraries.

Various modifications and improvements were made in the service methods, intended to simplify the routine business of the Library, and promote the convenience of the public. March 26, 1895, a system of graded appointments was adopted, resting upon examinations preliminary to employment, and regulating promotions based upon recognized merit. In February, 1896, an Editor of Library Publications was appointed, to have editorial charge of the Bulletin, and of such finding lists, monographs, and other publications as were thereafter to be issued from the Library Press. In May, 1896, a system of inter-library loans was adopted under which, sub-

ject to the approval of the Librarian, and under such regulations as he may prescribe, such books as are not restricted to hall use and as may be spared for the time being without inconvenience to local readers, may be lent temporarily to other responsible public circulating or reference libraries, provided such books are required for the purpose of serious research, and are not such as can easily be supplied by the applicant library. In 1898, the Department of Documents and Statistics was created, and Worthington C. Ford, formerly Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department at Washington, was appointed as its head, remaining until September 1, 1902, when he resigned to accept an appointment in the Library of Congress. The Department of Manuscripts was organized in 1899. In 1902 the Printing and Binding Departments were removed from the central library building to more suitable quarters in Stanhope Street, and the space formerly occupied by them was used in carrying out much needed enlargements of the Patent Room and Statistical Library.

On the second day of May, 1904, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the opening of the Library for public use was observed by an informal reception given by the Trustees at the central library building. Mayor Patrick A. Collins joined the Board to welcome on that occasion a large number of guests. The contrast between the splendid equipment of the institution as it then stood, and the humble collection of books which formed the Library at the begin-

ning was very great. It now served a constituency occupying 43 square miles of territory, through numerous agencies including, besides the Central Library, 10 branch libraries with permanent collections of books, 22 delivery stations (of which 13 were reading rooms), and also, as places of deposit or delivery, 38 fire engine-houses, 20 municipal institutions of various kinds, 85 public and 10 parochial schools, making a total of 185 different agencies within the library system. Its collections aggregate 848,884 volumes, including various special libraries and departmental collections, rare and precious volumes, manuscripts, medals, and objects of art. It had then more than 70,000 active borrowers' cards outstanding and available for use, "live cards" so-called, and its total circulation for home use approximated 1,500,000 volumes annually. Besides its home circulation, its books were extensively used within its reading rooms at the central building, and at the branches and stations, not only by the general public, but by students and persons engaged in special literary research, many of whom came to the City for the express purpose of availing themselves of the resources which this Library afforded to an extent greater than that of any other similar institution in the United States.

Its Trust Funds, given by generous friends of the institution, and invested in order that the income might be used in its support, aggregated $385,150. Its financial resources, apart from this income, provided by annual appropriations by the City Coun-

cil, exceeded $300,000 annually. In the general success of its work, it had justified the expectations of its founders, that it would supplement our system of free public schools, by providing educational opportunities for all classes in the community, thus embodying the spirit of the inscriptions placed upon the frieze of the central building "The Public Library of the City of Boston. Built by the People and dedicated to the Advancement of Learning." "The Commonwealth requires the Education of the People as the Safeguard of Order and Liberty."

CHAPTER IV.

THE increase of population in districts of the City remote from the Central Library stimulated a demand for the establishment of branches. In 1869 the Examining Committee especially emphasized, among the means to extend the circulation and usefulness of the Library, "the plan to establish branch libraries in East Boston, South Boston, and the Highland District." During the same year the City Council passed the following ordinance:

> The trustees may, from time to time, establish branch libraries of popular and useful books and periodicals in sections of the city distant from the main collection, provided the same be not established until the necessary appropriations be duly voted by the city council, and the estimates for such appropriations be made a part of the annual estimates of the city auditor. They may provide suitable rooms for this purpose, appoint the necessary attendants, and establish regulations for the same.

The first branch was established in East Boston, the second story of the old Lyman School building, 37 Meridian Street, having been selected for that purpose, and the rooms are still in use by the branch. Besides the purchases made from the library funds, and duplicates sent from the Central Library, the Sumner Library Association of East Boston gave its collection. The delivery of books

WILLIAM WHITWELL GREENOUGH.

Trustee of the Library, 1856–1888. President of the Board, 1866–1888. Born, Boston, June 25, 1818; died, Boston, June 17, 1899. Harvard College, class of 1837. Entered mercantile life in Boston. Treasurer, Boston Gas Light Company, 1852–1887; Trustee, Massachusetts General Hospital, 1856–1866; of the Provident Institution for savings from 1857; of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, from 1870.

at this branch began on the twenty-seventh of January, 1871, the complete printed catalogue was issued on the third of March, and formal opening ceremonies conducted in Sumner Hall, March 22. In their next report, the Trustees remarked that —

> The popular interest already excited by this first experiment, demonstrates clearly what is desirable in other quarters of the City, and will lead to specific recommendations in this respect to the City Council, before the end of the present year.

The circulation for home use from this branch in the year following its establishment was 74,804 volumes.

By an appropriation made by the City Council available in May, 1872, provision was made for a branch in South Boston. About 1,400 volumes, forming the nucleus of the collection, were furnished by the Mattapan Library Association. These were placed in the hands of the Trustees of the Library in January. Supplemented by purchases, the branch collection, aggregating 4,400 volumes, was opened for reading-room use on the twenty-second of April, and delivery for home use began May 1, in leased premises at 372 Broadway, on the second floor of the building, still used substantially without change. The formal dedication of the branch took place May 16. The Mayor presided, and addresses were made by Mr. Greenough, the President of the Trustees, and others. The branch circulated for home use 101,688 volumes during the following year.

Under the will of Caleb Fellowes of Phila-

delphia, but formerly of Roxbury, who died in 1852, a trust was created for the purpose of establishing a library, and erecting a building for it in Roxbury, to be called the Fellowes Athenæum. The available funds amounted in 1871 to $54,000, and under the will the trustees of Mr. Fellowes were to expend $40,000 in the purchase of land and the erection of a building, and to invest the remainder of the money as a book fund. An additional sum of about $30,000 was to be added to the fund from a bequest of Mrs. Fellowes, whenever the building was completed. Believing it to be for the public interest "that the advantages of these funds shall be joined with such others as may accrue from the provisions to be made for the benefit of the District of Roxbury, in the way of a branch of the Public Library," which was contemplated, the Trustees of the Fellowes Athenæum brought the matter to the attention of the City Council and the Trustees of the Library.

This conference resulted in a plan for joint action on the part of the City and the Trustees of the Fellowes Fund, whereby the last named undertook to erect a building, and the City agreed to appropriate money for a branch library to be established and maintained therein, paying an annual rental for the premises occupied, the rental money when received by the Fellowes Trustees to be expended in the purchase of books after providing for the payment of insurance, repairs, etc. Under this joint arrangement the Roxbury Branch was estab-

lished, the reading room for periodicals was opened to the public on the twenty-third of July, 1873, and the delivery of books began on the sixteenth of the same month. The new building was formally dedicated on the ninth of July. The branch was opened with 5,700 volumes, and its circulation for home use during its first year was 64,092.

By the annexation of Charlestown and Brighton in 1874 the public libraries of these places became branches of the Library. The Charlestown Library contained 15,000 volumes. It occupied and still retains rooms on the second floor of the old Charlestown City Hall building in City Square. Its circulation for home use in 1874, the first year recorded after it became part of the Boston system, was 32,023.

The Brighton institution, called the Holton Library, containing 11,000 volumes, had been maintained by the town as a public library, and at the time of annexation a new library building was partly completed. It was finished in August, 1874. Immediately thereafter the branch was put in operation in its new quarters, having previously been maintained in the old Town Hall. Its circulation for home use in 1874 was 9,652 volumes.

In 1874 the City Council provided an appropriation for a branch in Dorchester. Quarters were provided in the city building at the corner of Arcadia and Adams Streets, Field's Corner. The branch was formally dedicated January 18, 1875, by services held in the First Church, Meeting House

Hill, Mayor Samuel C. Cobb presiding. On the twenty-fifth of January the branch, containing about 4,000 volumes, was opened to the public, and circulated for home use, during its first year, 15,675 volumes.

The system of delivery stations had its inception in the establishment in 1875 of such a station at Dorchester Lower Mills, in connection with the Dorchester Branch. The population in that district remote from the location of the branch numbered then about 3,000. Through the intervention of Rev. H. G. Spaulding, a resident there, the proprietors of a circulating library gave approximately 2,500 volumes to the Dorchester Branch, on condition that a delivery station should be established at the Lower Mills. The plan was at first tried experimentally. A small building offered by J. C. Talbot, adjacent to his store, was used as a station, an attendant being present three hours daily to register borrowers, receive applications for books, and deliver books when received; an express box passed daily to and from the Dorchester Branch, and communication was established through the Branch with the Central Library.

The success of this station was immediate, and thereupon the delivery system was recognized as a proper development of the library system. A delivery station of the Roxbury Branch was opened at Jamaica Plain in June, 1876, and made an independent branch in 1877, the usual dedicatory services taking place in Curtis Hall, above the rooms

occupied by the branch, on the evening of December 1. This branch circulated for home use, in the year following, 28,174 volumes. It remained in the Curtis Hall building until that structure was partially destroyed by fire in 1908. It was then temporarily located in the Jackson Hall building on Centre Street. A new building for its independent use was put under construction in 1909 by the Department of Public Buildings.

Acceptance of the gift of the collection of the Mercantile Library Association, made to the City in 1877, carried with it the use of part of this collection as a nucleus for the establishment of the South End Branch, which was opened on the corner of Tremont and West Newton Streets in August of that year, afterward removed to the English High School building, Montgomery Street, and finally to its present location on Shawmut Avenue. Its circulation for home use in the year following its opening was 41,303 volumes. The building which it now entirely occupies, formerly the Every Day Church, was taken under lease, and refitted for library uses.

In 1877, also, other features of the branch work were inaugurated. A deposit station was established at Deer Island for the benefit of the City institutions there, the books being sent from the Central Library in lots of two or three hundred at a time. Similar service was also given to 13 fire engine-houses in the city proper, to the harbor fire-boat, and to the Protective Fire Department. Under a guaranty from the authorities of the Navy Yard, deposit

privileges were authorized for the benefit of the enlisted men on that station.

In 1878 a delivery station of the Jamaica Plain Branch was opened at Roslindale; and in January, 1880, the West Roxbury Free Library transferred to the Boston Public Library its collection of books, numbering 3,068 volumes, and a delivery station, afterwards developed into a branch, was opened at West Roxbury. In December, 1881, a delivery station, served from the Dorchester Branch, was opened at Mattapan. In October of the following year a reading room and delivery station was opened in the Hancock School building on Parmenter Street. This was the first reading room to be established distinct from the Central Library and branches. It was subsequently (1886) moved to the corner of North Bennet and Salem Streets, still later to 166 Hanover Street, and finally closed, other agencies having been provided in order to serve the needs of the locality more efficiently. In January, 1883, another delivery station, served from the Dorchester Branch, was established at Neponset; and in 1884 reading rooms were established in connection with the Brighton, Dorchester and Jamaica Plain Branches, and at the Lower Mills Delivery Station in Dorchester. In 1886, the Fellowes Athenæum collection was enlarged by the purchase by the Fellowes Trustees of the Roxbury Athenæum Library. In November of this year a delivery station was opened at Mt. Bowdoin.

In 1889, a delivery station was established at

Allston, and in 1890 one at Ashmont and one at Dorchester Station. In 1892 the Bird Street Delivery Station was opened; also the Mt. Pleasant and the Crescent Avenue Delivery Stations, and a reading room at North Brighton.

In June, 1895, a conference between committees representing the Trustees and the School Committee proposed a system of coöperation between the Library and the public schools. The details were slowly matured however, and not finally perfected until several years afterward. In 1898 the first deposits of books were sent through the Branch Department to some of the schools, the result demonstrating the practicability of the plan. In 1900 there were 21 public schools which were receiving deposits. In that year a definite plan of coöperation was arranged, providing for an extension of teachers' privileges, wider opportunities for school children, and a deposit system under which relays of books are regularly sent to the schools. This plan was approved by the Superintendent of Schools, and commended to the teachers in a circular, issued by him, April 1, 1901.

December 1, 1896, the office of Supervisor of Branches and Stations was created "to unify the outlying system, to strengthen the collection of books, to improve the equipment, and to introduce uniform and modern methods of administration."

The branch work was gradually enlarged and unified, additional delivery stations were established, and a regular system of daily wagon delivery

of books substituted for express service between these stations, the branches, and the Central Library, with additional arrangements for deposit deliveries, not only to the schools as previously mentioned, but to fire stations and other city institutions. The open shelf system was extended until it includes a large part of the branch collections.

One of the most important of the branch extensions was initiated in 1894, just before the new Central building was completed, by the purchase, under an appropriation made by the City Council, of the old West Church property, corner of Cambridge and Lynde Streets. The building, long a landmark of the so-called West End, fronting on a small park known as Lowell Square, was placed under the control of the Trustees, remodeled internally in a style carefully preserving its original architectural character, and reopened on the third of February, 1896, as the West End Branch. It provided accommodations for 250 readers, and at that time contained 8,600 volumes. Of these volumes, nearly 6,000 were purchased from funds obtained by private subscription for the purpose by the Woman's Education Association.

Besides this important gift, about 1,800 volumes, comprising the parish library of the West Church, were given to the Branch, in accordance with an understanding that such disposition should be made of them if the City purchased the church building and established a branch of the Library therein. Upon this gift there was no restriction,

except that the books were to be placed within the walls of the venerable building after its remodeling.

The original appropriation for the purchase of the estate was $55,000, and subsequently an appropriation of $30,000 was made, to cover the expense of remodeling and furnishing. The West End Branch became active as soon as established, its circulation eventually exceeding that of any other branch or station. The open square in front of the building remained in charge of the Public Grounds Department until 1904 and in that year, by action of the City Council was transferred to the Library, thus placing the entire property in the hands of the Trustees.

In 1896 delivery stations were opened on Broadway Extension, at Upham's Corner (Dorchester), and on Warren Street (Roxbury). In 1897 the Roxbury Crossing and Boylston Stations were opened. In 1898 a station was established on Union Park Street.

A system of book delivery to the Hancock School Building, Parmenter Street, the location of the first North End Reading Room previously mentioned, was carried on experimentally for a comparatively short time, but it was finally given up and a delivery station, afterwards continued as a reading room, was established in 1899 at 39 North Bennet Street.

In the following year a station was established at the corner of Dudley and Magazine Streets, and

one which had been maintained at 100 Blue Hill Avenue was discontinued. In 1900, also, the shop station in Roslindale was discontinued on account of the establishment of a new agency in that district, designated as the Roslindale Reading Room, and in the same year the West Roxbury Branch was enlarged. In 1901 a reading room was established in the John A. Andrew School Building, Dorchester Street, and also one at Orient Heights. In 1903 a new North End Reading Room was opened in a large room of the Guild House of St. Charles Borromeo, especially serving the needs of the Italian population in that vicinity. A reading room was opened July 18, 1906, at 615 Broadway, South Boston, and one on July 15, 1907, at 1518 Tremont Street. In February, 1907, the Upham's Corner Reading Room was made a branch. It had been removed in 1904 from its original location to the new municipal building on Columbia Road, its circulation rapidly increasing thereafter.

Some of the stations which had been established were afterward closed on account of the establishment of others in more convenient locations, or were continued under broader arrangements than were at first contemplated. These stations were of two kinds, namely, reading rooms administered directly by members of the library staff, and each equipped with a small collection of books, approximating 2,000 volumes, and, secondly, delivery stations which were located in shops. The shop stations contained only a small deposit of books, and

they were merely agencies, carried on by arrangement with the proprietor of the shop, to receive and transmit to the Central Library requests from borrowers, and to act as intermediaries in the loan and return of books thus called for, in connection with the system of daily service by wagons to and from the Central Library. This service was also operated in connection with the reading rooms, but such rooms had a great advantage over the shop stations, in that they contained public reading tables, were devoted entirely to library purposes, and being in charge of library employees were equipped to render a much more important service to the public than was possible at a mere place of call, located in a business establishment. Since the shop stations were easily established, the tendency seemed to favor their multiplication without corresponding increase in efficiency. At the same time the experience of several years clearly showed the greater value of the reading rooms as essential elements in the library system. Eventually, therefore, the shop stations were discontinued in favor of reading rooms, which are really minor branches. The last shop station was closed May 11, 1907.

CHAPTER V.

THE Library has always benefited by the gifts of individuals or from the income of trust funds established for its enrichment. The anticipations of its founders that it might expect much from the generosity of public spirited citizens, have been fully realized. The results of this generosity are seen clearly in the various important special collections, each a library in itself, maintained in unity, but nevertheless joined as elements of the general collection. The principal special collections, mentioned in the order of receipt by the Library, are the following:

THE PATENT COLLECTION. A series of English patents was given to the Library by the British Government through the efforts of Joseph Story, formerly President of the Common Council, aided by our English minister, Mr. Buchanan. This collection, received in 1858, formed the nucleus of the valuable Patent Department of the Library, which has since been maintained largely by gifts of domestic and foreign governmental publications relating to inventions.

THE BOWDITCH LIBRARY. This was given in 1858, by the sons of Nathaniel Bowditch, of Boston, the eminent mathematician. The collection originally comprised about 2,500 volumes, besides

487 pamphlets and 104 maps and charts, the personal library of Dr. Bowditch, and it also included 29 volumes of his own manuscripts. Among the books are many of great value, rare mathematical works, transactions of learned societies, and other volumes important to students of science. In 1877, J. Ingersoll Bowditch, the eldest son of Dr. Bowditch, gave to the Library the sum of $500 to be expended on works of pure mathematics, to be added to the original collection, and, finally, there was received in 1890 under a bequest from J. Ingersoll Bowditch, $10,000, to be funded and the income expended in the purchase of books of permanent value and authority in mathematics and astronomy. The additions to the Bowditch Library by purchases under these later gifts up to January 31, 1911, have enlarged the collection to 7,630 volumes.

The PRINCE LIBRARY. The library of Rev. Thomas Prince, former pastor of the Old South Church, in Boston, bequeathed by him to the Church in the year 1758, was placed in the custody of the Boston Public Library in 1866, by the Deacons of the Church acting as Trustees under Mr. Prince's will. The conditions under which this deposit was made and accepted provide that the books shall be kept by themselves in the Public Library building and never taken from it except for the purpose of being bound or otherwise repaired. It was further stipulated that so long as the Prince Library shall remain in the building, it shall be

accessible for reference and use in the same way as other books of the Public Library which are excluded from circulation and use, except in the rooms of the library building. Clergymen and literary men residing out of Boston, known to the Librarian or introduced by the pastor or a deacon of the Old South Church, are to be permitted to consult the books under the supervision of the Librarian.

The Prince Library consisted of 1,899 volumes as bound at the time it was received. It is exceedingly rich in rare books relating to the history of New England before the year 1758 in which Mr. Prince died. Among others, it contains the Bay Psalm Book, the first book printed in the English Colonies in America, Eliot's Indian Bible, in both editions, several volumes and packages of original manuscripts, comprising letters of the principal magistrates and ministers of the first years in New England history, and official State papers of the British and Provincial governments. About one-third of the volumes bear directly on American history. The remainder include such works of theology and literature as were prized by clergymen and scholars in New England during the eighteenth century. Upon receipt of this library the City Council made an appropriation of $2,000 for putting it into good condition and for printing a catalogue of the books.

Mr. Prince began to form his library upon entering Harvard College, July 6, 1703, and enlarged it by carefully selected purchases in this

country and abroad. Apart from its intrinsic merit and from the value it has since acquired as a priceless literary memorial of the past, it has a personal interest as displaying the scholarly judgment and taste of a New England clergyman of that time, who was a lover of books. He undertook to form a New England library, and no man of that day was more competent for such a task. In his own words, the collection was made "from a public view, and with a desire that the memory of many important transactions might be preserved, which otherwise would be lost." The library possesses also a romantic interest on account of the vicissitudes to which it was exposed during the Revolutionary War. Before the War the books and papers were deposited on shelves and in boxes and barrels in a room below the belfry in the steeple of the Old South Meeting-house on Washington Street, said to have been used as Mr. Prince's study.

No particular care was given to the collection at that time. During the siege of Boston, the building was used as a riding school by the British troops, was more or less open to the public, and it is supposed that some of the books were carried away and thus escaped the fate of others perhaps used by the soldiers during the winter in kindling the fires by which the pulpit and pews were consumed. At all events, various volumes known by their book-plates to have belonged to Mr. Prince, have been recovered from sources widely separated, and some of these have been restored to the collection now in the Li-

brary, through purchase from money supplied by the Old South Church. The manuscript history of Plymouth Colony, written by Governor Bradford, and known as the Bradford Journal, was apparently at an early date a part of the Prince Library, and afterward carried away to England, but finally recovered and deposited at the State House. How and when this manuscript was removed to England is not known. It was discovered in 1855 in the library of the Bishop of London at Fulham. Although once "lodged" in the Prince Library it was perhaps never actually the property of Thomas Prince. After international negotiations it was returned to Massachusetts, and by decree of the Consistory Court of London, committed to the custody of the Governor and thereafter deposited in the Archives of the Commonwealth.

In the Catalogue of the Prince Library, published by the Boston Public Library in 1870, Justin Winsor, in an introduction to the volume, gave a full account of the collection and explained the way in which the books came into the custody of the Public Library as follows:

> A desire had long been felt by antiquaries that this unique collection should be rendered more accessible. . . . . The thought of its transfer to the Public Library of Boston seems first to have suggested itself to the Rev. Mr. Manning, one of the pastors of the Old South Church, at the time he was serving on the annual committee for the examination of the Library in 1861. Nothing, however, was done till the spring of 1866, when it became necessary, by reason of a lease of the Chapel having been given, to remove the books

from their place in the same. At this juncture Deacon Charles Stoddard called upon Mr. William W. Greenough, of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library; and the result of their interview being communicated to Mr. George Ticknor, the President of the Board, that gentleman replied under date of May 28, 1866, that he was "assured on the highest and safest legal authorities" that a transfer of the care of the collection could be temporarily made "by a very simple process of law, intelligible to all, and maintaining in substance the principles on which the Prince books were originally bequeathed"; and in his letter Mr. Ticknor embodied, "as only suggestions of his own," substantially the terms of the subsequent agreement.

On the 12th of June, this correspondence was reported to the full Board of Trustees, and Messrs. Ticknor, Greenough and Tyler were made a select Committee of conference. On the 22nd a communication to the Trustees from the pastors and deacons of the Church enclosed a draft of articles of agreement. On the 26th the Trustees addressed a statement to the City Council, setting forth the extreme value and rarity of many of the books in the collection, and describing it as very rich in whatever relates to the city of Boston, and the early history and condition of New England generally, and propounding the terms of the contemplated agreement. They asked further for the sum of $2,000 to enable them to enter into this agreement, adding, that, "if the Prince Library could now be sold under the hammer in Boston or London, it would fetch from five to ten times the sum in question, and perhaps more, as the rarity and value of such books are constantly and rapidly increasing." In conclusion they say that they are "assured on the highest and safest legal authority, that the transfer of the Prince Library can be made with a just respect to the wishes and will of Mr. Prince, and to the rights and duties of all concerned." Mayor Lincoln communicated this statement, with his approval, to the City Council, July 2d. The Committee on the Public Library, to whom it was referred, gave it as their opinion "that the

proposal made by the Deacons is tantamount to an absolute gift of the unique and valuable collection." The City Council authorized the Trustees to receive the deposit, and voted the money.

On the 10th the Select Committee of the Trustees were given full power to see the transfer properly effected; and on the next day the agreement was duly executed.

On the thirty-first of January, 1911, the Prince Library consisted of 2,052 volumes.

THE TICKNOR LIBRARY. In 1871 the Library received, by the bequest of George Ticknor, the Spanish and Portuguese books which were contained in his private library. The collection was of great value, highly esteemed by scholars here and abroad, and it offered to the student opportunities for literary study in the field covered by it not to be found elsewhere in America. The bequest also included a trust fund of $4,000, the income of which was to be applied to the increase of the collection, under provisions contained in Mr. Ticknor's will. Under the conditions of the gift the books were restricted to use within the building. On the thirty-first of January, 1910, the collection numbered 6,504 volumes.

During his life Mr. Ticknor had at various times given to the Library collections of considerable size. For example, about 2,000 volumes had been received from him in 1860, and this was followed in 1864 by the gift of a collection of Provençal books. In offering the books in 1860, Mr. Ticknor expressed fully the object he had in mind. He said:

A part of the books that I have the honor to offer you

are such, I think, as will be useful for the widest and most popular circulation. In this portion of the library I have always felt and still feel the greatest interest. From the earliest suggestion of such an institution, it has been my prevalent desire that it should be made useful to the greatest number of our fellow-citizens, especially to such of them as may be less able than they would gladly be, to procure pleasant and profitable reading for themselves and for their families. . . . . But notwithstanding the precedence, which in my judgment should be given to this portion of the Library, there is another part of it, which it can hardly be doubted deserves great attention, — I mean its books which do not circulate, but which are kept in the building for reference and use.

Mr. Ticknor then referred to the gifts to such a collection which had previously been made by others, and remarked:

Such collections, I need not say, are everywhere of the greatest importance to the progress of knowledge, but are of more value to persons who have not in their homes convenient arrangements for study, than to others. We have, however, hardly any such collections in New England, and not one freely open for the use of all, like the Public Library. I, therefore, fulfil now the intention I expressed to you so long ago, and send to the Superintendent a list of the books which, I hope, you will permit me to contribute to this part of the institution. A few of them are already on our shelves, but it seems to be well that of these books, a single copy should always be reserved in the library, so that no person who may come there to consult and use it may be disappointed. Others of the books, I have the pleasure to offer you, may be infrequently asked for, but when they are wanted, they will be found, I think, important, since copies of many of them cannot elsewhere among us be obtained, except after a troublesome search, if at all. I have wanted them much myself, and, because there was no public library in which I could ob-

tain them, I have bought them, — often very reluctantly. I shall be happy if I am permitted to relieve others from the necessity.

These earlier gifts and the important addition made by bequest, placed Mr. Ticknor among the most liberal benefactors of the Library, and the books received from him, on account of their scholarly importance, materially enriched the reference section of the institution.

THE BARTON LIBRARY. This valuable collection was purchased in 1873 by money especially appropriated by the City Council, together with funds in the treasury at the disposal of the Trustees of the Library, but the price fixed by its owner was so far below the commercial value of the books that the amount thus voluntarily discounted was, in fact, a gift. At the time it was received the collection consisted mainly of the books collected by Thomas Pennant Barton of New York. A portion, consisting chiefly of works upon jurisprudence and criminal law, and of American public documents and political pamphlets, came into his hands from the library of his father-in-law, Edward Livingston. Mr. Barton's personal acquisitions are in two divisions, the first and the more important, constitutes one of the best existing collections of Shakespeariana. The second section includes works in various departments of literature, among which were special collections brought together by others and acquired *en bloc* by Mr. Barton. Among these are pamphlets and magazine articles bearing upon the

Chatterton-Rowley poems, and 29 volumes, containing 300 dramatic tracts, brought together by Joseph Haslewood. This portion of the collection includes nearly 1,100 volumes relating to the English drama, independent of Shakespeare, including the works of all of the prominent dramatists of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; and 600 early quarto editions of single plays. It also contains the collected works of the French dramatic writers, with many single plays by authors of whose works no collected edition was ever published; specimens of the work of the Spanish and Italian dramatists; rare and standard works in the department of history and travel; and important specimens of fine typography.

Many of the volumes contain notes and memoranda of bibliographical value, made by Mr. Barton. Upon his death, his widow, Mrs. Cora Livingston Barton, for the purpose of fulfilling the expressed wish of her husband, determined to dispose of his library in such a way as to keep the books together, and in her negotiations with the Boston Public Library, she was governed by this determination.

A brief account of the negotiations which resulted in the acquirement of the Barton Library is condensed from a statement prepared at the time by the President of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Greenough:

Late in the summer of 1869, Mr. F. W. Christern, the eminent bookseller and agent of the Library in New York, made known to Mr. Winsor, the Superintendent of the Library, the desire of Mrs. Barton to arrange for some satisfactory disposition of the collection formed by her deceased

husband. A direct correspondence was opened with her; and in September she visited the Library, and had interviews with the Superintendent and Mr. Ticknor. A valuation was made of her books, shortly after, by two well-known bibliographers, Dr. Joseph G. Cogswell and Mr. Joseph Sabin of New York, and in December her terms were given to the Trustees in the sum of $45,000 for a collection of books which had cost Mr. Barton more than $60,000, and which had increased considerably in value since they were purchased. The conditions of sale were substantially those which formed part of the final contract, viz., that the books should be kept together as one collection, and that they would not be loaned from the building. Notwithstanding the liberality of these terms, the want of pecuniary means at the disposal of the Trustees compelled them to decline the offer, and the correspondence terminated in January, 1870.

Two years later negotiations were resumed, and the sum of $40,000 was named as a basis, with other conditions not previously stated. This amount also could not be obtained from any source accessible to the Trustees. On the 13th April, 1872, so anxious had she become that the collection should be safely placed in the Bates Hall, that she reduced her price to $30,000, annexing the new condition that she should retain 1,500 volumes during her lifetime.

This concession was so large that the Trustees determined to make an effort to obtain the amount. So important did the proposed acquisition appear, that they felt justified in arranging to set aside from the interest of the Trust Funds belonging to the Library, in the course of two or three years the sum of $10,000, and that an appeal for the sum of $20,000 should be made to such friends of education and polite letters in our community as could appreciate the worth of the collection, and might be disposed to contribute to the purchase. Mr. Hillard, of the Board of Trustees, prepared a suitable circular, which was issued on the last of May. Of the sum desired, about $2,000 only was subscribed; and

further action was deferred until the autumn, Mrs. Barton having extended her refusal to November 1st.

Various obstacles delayed favorable action and the time was extended to the first of January, but without avail. The purchase money could not then be secured, and negotiations were suspended. In February, 1873, Mrs. Barton again opened correspondence, and a new effort was made to raise the money. This was at last successful, and on the twenty-seventh of March a contract of sale was executed under which the collection was obtained for the sum of $34,000, upon the conditions that the books should be kept together in a room or alcoves to be designated "The Barton Library"; restricted to use within the library building; marked with a special bookplate, and properly catalogued. Mrs. Barton retained 800 volumes, which were to revert to the Public Library upon her death. Within two months after this agreement was made, she suddenly died. In conclusion Mr. Greenough remarks:

This bare narration gives no idea of the generous spirit with which this most estimable lady carried forward every step of the contract. The library had been left to her by her husband's will, without condition, to do with as she pleased. But she knew that his desire had been that the labor of his lifetime should not be lost by the separation of his dearly prized books, and she determined that his wishes should be literally carried out. In doing this, she gave to the Barton Library everything in her possession which could add value to the collection, — the correspondence, autographs, and plates, which would illustrate and complete it. She added a mask of Shakespeare's face, taken at Mr. Barton's expense from the monument at Stratford on Avon, and a statuette of Richard III., the work of Rogers.

Additions to the Barton Library have from time to time been made by purchase from the Library funds, especially of works relating to Shakespeare, in order to enrich that division of the collection. On the thirty-first of January, 1911, the total number of volumes was 13,738.

THE THAYER LIBRARY. The nucleus of this collection consisted of about 890 volumes given to the Library in 1877 under the bequest of Miss Eliza Mary Thayer, of Roxbury. These books related to history and biography, including a large number of costly illustrated works, containing many historical portraits. Her sisters, Mrs. R. Anne Nichols, Mrs. Susan Thayer Balch, and especially Miss Caroline Coddington Thayer, from time to time afterwards gave from their own libraries many valuable illustrated books, portfolios of portraits, and memorials of Theodore Parker. Upon the death of Miss Caroline C. Thayer, the Library received by her bequest the remainder of her personal collection, 2,463 volumes, which were, with the others, deposited with those received from Miss Eliza M. Thayer in 1877. On the thirty-first of January, 1910, the Thayer Library numbered 5,393 volumes.

THE HUNT LIBRARY. In 1877, Benjamin P. Hunt, formerly of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, but afterwards of Philadelphia, died, and under his will the Library received his collection of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, charts and engravings relating to the West Indies, together with his manuscripts, notes and collections relating to the emigra-

tion of the poor and to Hayti. Mr. Hunt was long engaged in commerce with Hayti and the West Indies, entering business at Cape Haytien in 1842 and finally becoming the head of a wealthy commercial house at Port-au-Prince. He was a careful student of West Indian manners and customs, and at an early date brought together a unique collection of books relating to the islands. He retired in 1858, thereafter making his home in Philadelphia. The books as received under his bequest numbered 612 bound volumes, with the other material specified, accompanied by a catalogue annotated by Mr. Hunt with great care. As now arranged and catalogued under the public library system, the collection comprises 669 volumes.

THE CHARLOTTE HARRIS COLLECTION. In 1878, the Charlestown Branch received by the bequest of Miss Charlotte Harris her private library of 1,118 volumes, together with the sum of $10,000, the interest of which must be expended for books published before the year 1850. In order that the valuable books in this collection, and especially those purchased from year to year under the condition attached to the bequest, might be more effectively safeguarded in a building not so exposed to danger from fire as that occupied in Charlestown, the transfer of the collection to the Central Library building was authorized by legislative enactment in 1900. On the thirty-first of January, 1911, the collection contained 4,710 volumes.

THE FRANKLIN LIBRARY. This collection

owes its inception to the Green fund given by Dr. Samuel A. Green in 1878. Two years later, Dr. Green gave to the Library his collection of Franklin books and engravings, and William S. Appleton, of Boston, added from his own valuable library such engravings of Franklin as he possessed that were not included in the Green collection. It was intended that these gifts, together with such additions as might afterwards be made, should fittingly commemorate, within the Public Library in his native city, the character and work of Benjamin Franklin. The original gift from Dr. Green, apart from the Green fund, included about 135 books and pamphlets, together with 87 portraits and engravings, all of which in some way relate to Franklin. Subsequent additions by gift and by purchases from the Green fund have enlarged the collection to about 800 titles.

THE PARKER LIBRARY. Rev. Theodore Parker, of Boston, who died in 1860, bequeathed his collection of books to the City, the gift to take effect upon the death of Mrs. Parker. She relinquished her life-interest in the larger part of the collection, the Library receiving at once 11,190 volumes and 2,500 pamphlets. Upon her decease in 1881, the gift was completed and the books previously withheld by Mrs. Parker, comprising 1,311 bound volumes and 2,117 pamphlets, besides her own library of 281 volumes, were then received, together with a marble bust of Mr. Parker by W. W. Story, his library desk, and crayon portraits

of Mr. and Mrs. Parker by Seth Cheney. Mr. Parker's collection was made under circumstances which are thus described by Thomas Wentworth Higginson, in a special report submitted to the Trustees of the Public Library in 1883:

The library was formed under circumstances somewhat peculiar. It was the work of a man possessing a more omnivorous passion for books than almost any of his contemporaries in this country, and enabled by circumstances to gratify that passion more and more as time went on. Beginning as a poor scholar, and then living on a very modest salary as the minister of a small suburban parish, he was early a collector of books to supply his actual needs; and, after he had been transferred to a large city parish, and had become a very popular lecturer, he was enabled to set aside most of his income from the lecture source for this object. Books, which were at first the necessaries of his life, became at last his only luxuries. He justified himself for incurring the expense of their purchase partly by looking forward to a great work which he had planned on the History of Religion, partly by the purpose, long cherished, of bequeathing these literary collections for some public service. For a long time this prospective destination was Harvard College, of whose library he had made much use; but soon after the formation of the Free Public Library, in 1852, he was led to change his purpose by the conviction that the plan of this institution would make the books even more useful than if given to Harvard College. . . . . .

The library of Mr. Parker was thus collected with a view to actual use by himself, and prospectively by others, and this affected its very selection from the beginning. It was not a show library, or the library of a technical bibliomaniac; it was the collection of a specialist, but of a specialist with a wide horizon. It was formed by a scholar upon the lines of his own particular studies, but projecting those lines far be-

yond what he could reasonably expect to accomplish in a lifetime. In the midst of a career so exacting and laborious that, in spite of a most vigorous organization, he died an old man at fifty, Mr. Parker was always making a collection of books that represented both his pursuits and his purposes.

The collection includes grammars and dictionaries of many foreign languages, voluminous encyclopaedias, works of scholarly importance in the departments of literary history, jurisprudence, the early Christian fathers, German theology and metaphysics, and the Latin and Greek classics in fine old folio editions, with many modern editions and commentaries, a large part of the volumes being in languages other than English. In the Parker Library are many works which may be classed as monumental, for example: the hundred-volumed *Patrologia,* of Migne; the *Maxima Bibliotheca veterum patrum,* in 21 volumes, folio (Lyons, 1677); the *Annales Ecclesiastici* of Caesar Baronius, in 12 volumes, folio (Antwerp, 1597–1642); Mabillon's *Annales ordinis S. Benedicti,* in six volumes, folio, and others of which these are types.

The books are of very great value to scholars who are interested in the special subjects covered by them. The extensive assortment of grammars and dictionaries alone would make the collection noteworthy. Parker had devoted more or less attention to Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, Anglo-Saxon, Mœso-Gothic, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, and Russian, and to many other languages or dialects of lesser importance, and the facilities for acquaintance

with all these are found in the Parker Library, and the numerous lexicons of ancient authors and works which have been termed "retrospective-encyclopædic" are reservoirs of information to the scholar.

THE GILBERT COLLECTION. In 1889, Mrs. Gilbert, the widow of John Gibbs Gilbert, the eminent actor, gave to the Library 680 volumes and 468 pamphlets of dramatic literature collected by her husband. Many of these consist of rare single plays, and nearly all were used by Mr. Gilbert, and are enriched by notes, casts, and other memoranda adapting them to the stage.

THE JOHN A. LEWIS LIBRARY. In May, 1890, Mrs. John A. Lewis, of Boston, gave to the Library the collection of Americana made by her deceased husband. This was considered a gift of so great importance that upon receiving it the Trustees, by their President, sent the following communication to the Mayor:

> SIR: The Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston have received as a gift from Mrs. John A. Lewis the collection of Americana made by her late husband. This collection contains many books of great value and rarity. Although presented to the Trustees of the Library, of course it is, in fact, a gift to the City of Boston, and as it is so important, the Trustees think that they should inform Your Honor of the gift, as the City Government may desire to take some action in regard to it.

Other important volumes of Americana purchased with money given by Mrs. Lewis were afterward added, and in 1903, after her death, there was received by her bequest the sum of $5,000.

This was funded by the Trustees, and the income is applied to the enlargement of the collection, which now numbers 703 volumes.

THE JOHN ADAMS LIBRARY. This collection was deposited in the Boston Public Library in October, 1894. In 1822, President John Adams, then in his eighty-seventh year, presented to the town of Quincy, as he stated in the deed of gift, "the fragments of my library, which still remain in my possession, excepting a few that I shall reserve for my consolation in the few days that remain to me." The gift was made subject to certain conditions, one of which required that a printed catalogue must be made; and another that "none of the books shall ever be sold, exchanged or lent, or suffered to be removed from the apartment, without a solemn vote of the majority of the superintendents" of the Adams Temple and School Fund, who were made its custodians. The catalogue which was prepared in compliance with the condition above expressed, was very imperfect in its arrangement, but it covered 2,756 volumes, the number of books at the time the gift was received by its custodians. Afterwards it appeared that with the lapse of time, notwithstanding the condition prohibiting the removal of volumes from the apartment wherein they were kept, some were lost or stolen, and others more or less mutilated or defaced. It was the wish of John Adams that the library should be placed in "an apartment of the building to be hereafter erected for a Greek and Latin School or Academy" in Quincy, which he

had provided for in another deed of gift. After various transfers it was finally lodged in the Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy, in 1882. In 1883, a suitable catalogue was begun by the direction and at the expense of Charles Francis Adams. This was completed in October, 1884.

In November, 1893, the Trustees of the Boston Public Library, by the President, sent to the Supervisors of the Adams Temple and School Fund the following letter:

To the Supervisors of the Adams Temple and School Fund:

DEAR SIRS: The attention of the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston has been directed lately to the very valuable President John Adams Library, which is now in the Crane Memorial Building at Quincy. They are so impressed with the great interest and historical value of the collection that they feel it will not be out of place to ask you if it is not possible to place it in some position where it would be more accessible to the students to whom it would be useful.

In consideration of the great change that has taken place in the country since the Library was placed in your charge by President Adams, it may be possible to carry out President Adams's intent better by placing the collection in some more accessible place.

As the new Public Library building in Boston is nearing completion, it has occurred to the Trustees that the most appropriate and useful place for the collection would be in that building, where it would be of great use to a great number of students who resort to the Boston Public Library from all parts of the country, and where its value would be increased by the convenience of using it in connection with the large collection on kindred subjects already collected, and where it might also serve as a nucleus for one of the most important constitutional libraries in the United States.

If this suggestion meets with your approval, the Trustees will put the collection in a separate alcove with a suitable inscription over it, and will take all proper measures for caring for and protecting it. I need hardly assure you that they would esteem it a great privilege if they were permitted to become custodians of a collection so very valuable both intrinsically and because of its associations.

The reply to this letter, under the hand of Charles Francis Adams, Chairman of the Supervisors, was as follows:

Referring to your communication addressed to the Supervisors of the Adams Temple and School Fund, under date of November 3, I now have the pleasure of forwarding to you the following extract from the Records of the Supervisors:

"Communications received from Charles Francis Adams and Samuel A. B. Abbott, President of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library, relating to the John Adams Library, which is now in the Crane Memorial Hall at Quincy.

"VOTED, That the said communications be spread upon the records.

"After due consideration of the request of the President of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library, it was the opinion of the Supervisors that the intent of President Adams would be better carried out by placing the Library where it would be more accessible to students and investigators; and it was thereupon

"VOTED, That there being at present no settled ministers of the Congregational Society or of the Episcopal Society of Quincy, the Supervisors assent to the request of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library, and that the care and custody of the Library belonging to the city of Quincy deposited by the Supervisors of the Adams Temple and School Fund with the concurrence of the then settled ministers of the two societies above mentioned, in the Crane

Memorial Hall, under vote of the Supervisors of May 12, 1882, be transferred to the Boston Public Library; and that the Trustees of the Thomas Crane Public Library be requested to deliver the same to the Trustees of the Boston Public Library."

The above extract from the Record was communicated to me, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Thomas Crane Public Library of the City of Quincy, in whose hands, as depositaries, the library of President John Adams now is.

That Board has no power of control over the collection. It is merely placed at their request in the Crane Memorial Hall, subject to any disposition which the Supervisors may make of it.

I have, therefore, now to inform you that the Trustees of the Thomas Crane Public Library hold the John Adams collection subject to the order of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston. We will deliver the library to your agents at any time it may suit your convenience to receive it, taking your written receipt therefor.

To this the Trustees replied that they would accept the transfer of the John Adams Library in accordance with the terms of the vote of the Supervisors of the Adams Temple and School Fund, to be placed in the new building as soon as it was completed. In due course Mr. Adams's books were received and suitably placed upon the shelves. A complete card catalogue has been made and is to be printed.

The library of John Adams, apart from the importance of the books themselves, is of interest from the fact that it preserves in a single collection, the private library of a statesman, brought together with intelligence and discrimination late in the eighteenth century, just as the Prince Library shows us

the literary preferences of an eminent New England clergyman, many years earlier. The books in each collection contain manuscript annotations made by their original owners, and in the case of Mr. Adams, it appears that many of the volumes were presented to him while abroad, either in France or at the Hague, and some of these contain comments written by him at that time or later in life. It is an interesting fact that three books in the Adams Library appear to have once belonged to the earlier collection made by Mr. Prince. As now arranged and catalogued the Adams Library contains 3,019 volumes.

THE NEWSPAPER ROOM. This room at the Central Library, devoted to the daily reception and filing for use of newspapers from all parts of the world, was opened May 3, 1895. It was provided through the generosity of William C. Todd, of Atkinson, New Hampshire. In July, 1893, Mr. Todd announced his intention of giving $2,000 every year during his life to the City of Boston, all of this sum to be expended for newspapers, with a further provision that sooner or later the City should receive $50,000, the annual income of which was to be applied to the same purpose. Mr. Todd at that time notified the Trustees of the Library that the first installment of $2,000 was at their disposal, but owing to the insufficient space in the building then occupied it was impossible to use this sum until the new building was completed. Mr. Todd's letter to the Trustees, dated June 16, 1893, in which he fully

WILLIAM CLEAVES TODD.

Liberal benefactor of the Library in the establishment of a newspaper reading room. Born, Atkinson (N. H.), February 16, 1823; died, Atkinson (N. H.), June 26, 1904. Dartmouth College, class of 1844; teacher (Shepherdsville, Ky., 1848, 1849; Candia, N. H., 1849–1854; Newburyport, Mass., 1854–1864); New Hampshire House of Representatives, 1883–1887.

Wm. C. Todd

explained his motive in making the gift, is as follows:

To the Trustees of the Boston Public Library:

Boston is a city of rare privileges, but it lacks one now possessed by many others, viz., a place where all — citizens and strangers — can enter freely, and read the leading newspapers of the day; some such place as the Cooper Institute of New York affords. The Boston Public Library is well supplied with magazines, but not with newspapers. It is too late to discuss the value of newspapers, — they have become a necessity. The business man, the student in every department, the politician anxious to feel the public pulse, the men who, like the Athenians of old, "spent their time either to tell or hear some new thing," — all, of every pursuit and condition, must read the newspapers to learn what has transpired the world over. The press has become the great agency by which information is diffused, leading questions discussed, the people educated, and public opinion moulded. Words spoken to a hundred people in the evening are, the next morning, read by a hundred thousand. Newspapers now form a large part of the reading of the whole community. I have heard business men say that they read the newspapers daily, occasionally a magazine, hardly a book in a year. It is not enough to read one paper, and that partisan, if any one would be correctly informed and judge clearly; yet many newspapers are too expensive for ordinary readers, and a large part are desired only for occasional use. All this is well understood, and need not have been repeated. Free reading-rooms, I have no doubt, in the not distant future, will be even more in demand by the general public than free public libraries.

As the new Public Library building is about to be opened, I trust this great want of Boston will be supplied. If the Trustees will furnish a suitable room, and provide for all incidental expenses, I will pay two thousand dollars ($2,000) annually; all of this sum to be expended in news-

papers, and, sooner or later, will give a fund of fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) to secure forever this annual payment. Such payments are to be appropriated to furnishing newspapers for a reading-room in the new central Public Library building only. The aim shall be to select representative papers, giving the current thought of different sections of our own country, and, to such an extent as the Trustees may determine, of foreign countries, so as to provide a reading-room that shall satisfy the wants of citizens, and also of the many strangers always to be found in Boston. No distinction shall be made in the selection of newspapers in favor of any religious sect or political party.

I may add that my only interest in this matter is the wish to do some good to a great many people.

In their reply under date of June 20, 1893, the Trustees said:

The want of such facilities as your generosity will provide has long been felt, but until other and more pressing needs were supplied, the Trustees have been unwilling to ask from the city government, which has been so liberal in its appropriations to this Library for the people, the means to satisfy the deficiency.

The Free Public Library — "open to all" — was not established for the sole use of students and scholars, but for the enjoyment of the people of all classes and professions, especially the "plain people," to quote the language of our martyred President. These latter will greatly appreciate your benefaction.

It is pleasant to know that the gift comes from a citizen of another State, who appreciates Boston and the "rare privileges" which an enlightened public spirit has provided for all her people. The conditions of your endowment increase its value, for they not only show your munificence, but also the broad and catholic spirit which prompted it.

Be assured that your name will always be dear to those who enjoy the fruits of your bounty, and that you will be

associated with the many benefactors of our Free Public Library — with Bates and Ticknor and Everett and Bowditch and Scholfield, and the many others who are gratefully remembered by all interested in popular education.

Be assured also that the present Board of Trustees, and, without doubt, their successors in office, will always respect the terms of your gift and faithfully execute the trusts reposed in them.

In 1897, Mr. Todd, in pursuance of the intention stated in his previous letter, offered a gift of $50,000, subject to conditions which required the acceptance of the City Government. On the twenty-fourth of October he addressed the following letter to Hon. Josiah Quincy, Mayor:

DEAR SIR:

Impressed with the increasing importance and influence of newspapers, and the great demand for them by all classes of the community, I addressed, June 16, 1893, while the new building was in process of erection, a communication to the Trustees of the Public Library, offering to pay two thousand dollars annually for the purchase of newspapers, if the Trustees would connect with the Library a newspaper department. My proposition was accepted. After three years' experience of its operation, the Librarian has assured me of its success, of the increasing interest shown in it by citizens and strangers, and of its value as a part of the Library. I have been paying two thousand dollars annually since its opening, and wish to insure that amount permanently for the maintenance of this newspaper department of the Library.

I therefore offer to give to the City of Boston the sum of fifty thousand dollars, provided that the City Government requires its City Treasurer to accept this sum, hold the same in trust, and expend the income annually in payment for such current newspapers of this and other countries, as the board of officers for the time being having charge of the Public

Library of the city shall purchase, the same to be kept in a suitable room in the building in which the Central Public Library is now or may hereafter be located, and use no part of said income for the maintenance of the department where such newspapers are kept, or for any other purpose than the payment for such newspapers, it being my desire that the whole of the annual income shall be used solely for the purchase of newspapers; and provided further, that the City Government authorizes the Mayor of the city to execute and deliver to me an agreement of the city that if the annual income from said fund shall in any years be less than two thousand dollars, the city will appropriate the necessary amount to make the income up to two thousand dollars, to carry out the purposes for which this fund is given.

This gift is subject to the understanding that said board or officers shall have the entire discretion as to the length of time which the newspapers are to be kept on file, or to be preserved, or as to their disposal, and as to the restrictions and regulations under which the use of said newspapers shall be enjoyed.

I am not a citizen of Boston, but regard it as a city of rare privileges, and it will certainly be one of them to have free access to representative newspapers of the world. It is the metropolis of New England, the centre of a large and cultivated population, and the attractive resort at all times of strangers from every section of the globe, ever anxious to see their home papers. I repeat, as I said in my communication of June 16, 1893, that my only interest in this matter is the wish to do some good to a great many people.

If this proposal meets your approval, I would ask that you submit the matter to the City Council, and request that, if it meets their approval, such steps may be taken as will enable me to pay this money to the city at once.

Mayor Quincy transmitted this letter to the City Council, stating that he believed "this liberal gift, for such a useful purpose, coming from a gentle-

man who is not even a citizen of Boston, should be promptly and gratefully accepted." Thereupon the following order was passed in concurrence, October 28, and approved by the Mayor October 30, 1897:

ORDERED, That the city gratefully accepts the gift of fifty thousand (50,000) dollars tendered by William C. Todd, Esquire, and agrees to hold the same in accordance with the terms of his gift;

That the City Treasurer receive said sum, hold the same in trust, and expend the income thereof only for the payment of such current newspapers of this and other countries as the board or officers for the time being having charge of the Public Library of the city shall purchase, and that His Honor the Mayor execute and deliver to said William C. Todd, an agreement of the city that, if said income shall in any year be less than two thousand (2,000) dollars, the city will appropriate such sum as will make the sum to be expended for the purchase of newspapers as aforesaid two thousand (2,000) dollars;

That the board of officers for the time being having charge of the Public Library of the city annually expend the sum of two thousand (2,000) dollars in the purchase of such current newspapers of this and other countries as they shall deem proper, and keep the same open to the inspection of the public in a suitable room in the Central Public Library Building for such period, and under such regulations and restrictions, and subject to such final disposal, as they shall deem proper.

The income of the fund has since been expended, in accordance with the conditions of the gift, in the purchase of current newspapers, domestic and foreign, for the use of all, an addition to the Library which has been fully appreciated. After the death of Mr. Todd in 1903, there was placed upon

the wall of the Newspaper Room a tablet in his memory designed by Frank Chouteau Brown, and paid for by Edmund K. Turner, the executor of Mr. Todd's estate.

THE ALLEN A. BROWN MUSIC LIBRARY. This collection, one of the most important gifts the Library has ever received, was given by Allen A. Brown of Boston in 1894. Mr. Brown began to collect musical works many years ago without the definite intention of forming such a library; but, as his acquisitions steadily increased in importance and in representative character, he realized that a permanent location for them was desirable, where they could not only be preserved but made available for public use. He therefore presented his collection to the Boston Public Library, and it was accepted by the Trustees, under conditions which were thus formulated by him:

1st. The collection is to be known as the "Allen A. Brown Musical Library," and to be kept in an apartment or alcove by itself. Each volume to bear a bookplate or stamp, designating the same as belonging to said collection.

2d. That it should be held by the Trustees, and treated as a library of reference; nothing to be taken from the building except as hereinafter provided.

3d. That during my lifetime I may have free access to the collection at all proper times, and may take from the building such volumes as I may need, holding myself responsible for their safe return. This right not to be transferable.

4th. That I have the privilege of inserting in the works any items of interest, such as bills of performances, notices of works, and various cuttings, the same as I have in years past.

5th. That a catalogue of the collection be commenced

by the Trustees within a period of two years; also, that such portions of the Library as still remain unbound be put in condition for the shelves within a reasonable time; and that the general style of binding I have adopted be preserved as far as possible.

It is my present intention to add to the Library from year to year, with the idea of making it as complete and representative a collection in its department as is possible. For this end I request the Trustees to accord me such rights and privileges within the building as will enable me the better to carry out my purposes.

Besides the rich collection of music and musical literature in the Allen A. Brown Library, many of the volumes contain autograph letters of the composers or bits of contemporary critical comment culled from newspapers of the day when the works were first brought out, and inserted by Mr. Brown. There are also many volumes of programmes of musical performances in Boston; finely bound and carefully indexed volumes of articles on music and musical subjects collected from various English and American magazines; scores, copied by Mr. Brown, of compositions of which only the separate parts are published and obtainable; and many other items which render the collection unique.

A room appropriate for the purpose was set apart for this Library in the new building, which was at the time approaching completion in Copley Square. By subsequent gifts received directly from Mr. Brown, and indirectly from him through friends who are interested in his work, the collection has been enlarged from year to year. To a limited extent additions have also been made by the Trus-

tees from money at their disposal. January 31, 1911, the total number of volumes was 11,212. The catalogue provided for in the conditions of gift was begun, but its completion and publication have been unavoidably delayed. Five parts have now been issued, and others will be issued continuously until the entire work, intended to be bound in four volumes, is before the public.

THE CHAMBERLAIN COLLECTION. In 1893, Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, who had retired from the position of Librarian, informally expressed to the Trustees his intention of bequeathing to the Library his valuable collection of manuscripts, autographs and other documents, and suggested that before his death the material might be deposited in the new building. February 14, 1893, he sent to the Trustees the following letter:

> I propose to leave to the Boston Public Library, by testamentary bequest, my collection of historical documents, manuscripts, autographs, portraits, and engravings connected therewith, together with a few printed volumes, and some matters of personal interest to me, provided the Trustees, after a more mature consideration of the subject, are still willing to accept the same agreeably to an informal understanding expressed at their meeting, January 17, 1893. That is to say, the Trustees will furnish the room in the new building, connected with the librarian's room, substantially in accord with the plan prepared by Alexander S. Jenney, and set said room apart as the permanent home of said collection, to be and forever remain in the sole custody of the librarian, under the Trustees.
>
> From the above conditions are to be excepted the framed Address to the King, the Declaration of Independ-

MELLEN CHAMBERLAIN.

Librarian, 1878–1890. Born, Pembroke (N. H.), June 4, 1821; died, Chelsea (Mass.), June 25, 1900. Dartmouth College, class of 1844; lawyer; Massachusetts House of Representatives, 1858–1859; Massachusetts Senate, 1863–1864; Justice of Municipal Court of Boston, 1866; afterwards Chief Justice until 1878.

Melleu Chamberlain

ence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution of the United States, which would be properly exhibited on the walls of some more public room.

While I desire to retain the property of the collection during my life, it is my wish, nevertheless, to transfer to the Library at once such portions of it as are in completed form, and the remainder as soon as it can be completed.

The collection will need an index and binding; and as I am familiar with the requirements, I think it would be well to have one or more volumes of each division bound as soon as may be, to serve as examples for the remaining volumes.

It is my purpose to make the collection as complete as I may; and to that end, after any portion of it is transferred to the Library I shall desire free access to it at suitable times.

On the twenty-fifth of March, the Trustees, through their President, made the following reply:

It is my pleasant duty to inform you that I am instructed by the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston, that they accept with gratitude your proposed testamentary gift of your unique and valuable "collection of historical documents, autographs, portraits and engravings connected therewith, together with certain printed volumes," etc., and that they agree to perform all the conditions set forth in your letter of February 14, 1893, to which the gift is made subject.

Permit me to improve the opportunity to express my own appreciation of the great value of your proposed donation, and assure you that all the conditions referred to will be faithfully performed. The Trustees have already commenced the work of preparing a suitable room in the new Library building for the accommodation of the collection, as you are pleased to allow them present possession of the same.

The provision in Judge Chamberlain's will, under which the Library acquired ownership of the collection after his death in 1900, is as follows:

To the Trustees of the Boston Public Library I give my collection of manuscripts (save those hereinbefore given to the Historical Society), autographs, portraits, and photographs, collected for illustrating said collection (as distinguished from those framed and now hanging on the walls of my house), personal and family papers, correspondence and genealogical manuscripts, together with two bound sets of my own historical and literary papers. I also give to said Trustees the presentation copies of books or pamphlets, including those containing autographs of distinguished persons once owning them, whether now in my own house or in my room in the Library. These matters may generally be recognized (if books) by their having my book-plate — "The Chamberlain Collection" — on the inside of the cover. This bequest is upon the conditions set forth in my letter to said Trustees, February 14, 1893, and accepted by their vote, March 28, of the same year.

The general collection occupies a room especially fitted to receive it. It consists of bound and unbound volumes of manuscripts, and of printed books, expanded and extra-illustrated; in all more than 350 volumes, conveniently divided into American and European sections, together with unclassified material. Other portions of the gift of Mr. Chamberlain are appropriately preserved in glazed swinging frames, so as to be conveniently inspected, upon the walls of the Children's Room at the Central Library.

A pamphlet descriptive of the autograph collection of Mr. Chamberlain, prepared from material submitted by Edwin M. Bacon, specially employed for the purpose, was issued by the Trustees in April, 1897.

THE GALATEA COLLECTION. In 1896, the Library received from Thomas Wentworth Higginson, of Cambridge, the books designated by him as "The Galatea Collection of Books relating to the History of Women." The first installment numbered 1,066 volumes, counting composite volumes as one, which the giver had brought together during nearly fifty years, including books in various languages, and many that were rare and curious. There was no similar collection in any public library, and Colonel Higginson desired this to be the nucleus of a collection which he hoped might be increased by other givers, who might thus coöperate in building up a department of permanent value. In his letter transmitting the gift Colonel Higginson said:

It is needless to say that I should not desire to see any general separation in any library between works relating to men and works relating to women, as this would be a thing absurd and impracticable. But the great changes that have gone on within recorded history in the social, industrial and educational position of woman, render all this an important theme for special study, and a proper basis for a separate department in every large library. It is such a department that I desire with the aid of others to establish; and I am very confident that it will find special students to whom it will be of value. Indeed, this has proved to be the case more than once while these books have been under my own roof.

I am not aware that such a department has before been created in any public library, though one or two college libraries in our Western States have been mentioned as beginning on similar collections. Several large collections of books written by women have been made in Europe; and among my books there are printed catalogues of two of these, both now scattered, the Ferri and the Stainforth Libraries. But

both these contained the works of women only — not works *about* women; and the same was the case with the remarkable library of women's writings which I visited in the Women's Building at Chicago, and most of whose contents are still kept together, I believe, in that city. None of these, therefore, were general collections like that at which I aim.

The collection has hitherto borne the name of "The Galatea Collection of Books relating to the History of Woman," and is roughly catalogued under that appellation; but I do not in the least require that this name should be made permanent, nor do I make any other condition whatever. I am satisfied that the authorities of the Boston Public Library will fully consider the suggestions already made, and will, if they accept the gift, carry out these suggestions wisely. The books have been in process of collection for nearly fifty years, and include a good many that are rare and curious. They are in a variety of languages, and many of them would now be duplicated with difficulty. The question how far they should be used inside the building and how far outside must be left wholly to your judgment.

. . . . . I desire to add that I am influenced in making this gift, such as it is, not only by the conviction that it is the best use to be made of the collection, but by a warm regard for the Boston Public Library itself; having received from it many favors in years past and having as a member of the Legislature taken an active part in securing for it the piece of land on which its present building stands.

In 1900, Colonel Higginson transmitted to the Library a gift of $100, which he had received from Andrew Carnegie, and a similar amount has been received annually since that time, for the purchase of books for the Galatea Collection, and purchases have also been made from Library money. The collection on the thirty-first of January, 1911, numbered 2,855 volumes.

THE CODMAN LIBRARY. The original installment of books in this collection was given to the Library in 1896 by Mr. and Mrs. James M. Codman, of Brookline, "in memory of Henry Sargent Codman and Philip Codman, landscape architects," by whom the collection was made. This first gift consisted of 691 volumes, with photographs, prints, etc., forming an interesting library of landscape architecture. In 1898, the friends of Henry Sargent Codman gave to the Library $2,854.41, this amount to be funded and its income used to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Codman "by keeping alive, maintaining, and from time to time adding to the plants, trees, and other foliage, within the Public Library, provided this should be acceptable to the Trustees." Afterward this intention was modified, and the givers of the fund informed the Trustees, in January, 1899, that they believed "that it might more effectively be utilized in some other way, for instance, particularly by the purchase of books upon landscape gardening. The assent of the givers being given to this disposition of the money, both as to the sum already in hand and as to any contributions that might subsequently be made to the fund, the income has since been applied to the enlargement of the Codman Collection, which on the thirty-first of January, 1911, numbered 822 volumes.

THE ARTZ LIBRARY. The interest in the Boston Public Library has not been confined to Massachusetts. In 1896, Miss Victorine Thomas Artz of Chicago gave the sum of $10,000, "the income of

this sum to be employed in the purchase of valuable rare editions of the writings, either in verse or prose, of American and foreign authors. Original manuscripts may be included in the collection. Miss Artz wished the collection to be especially known as the "Longfellow Memorial Collection." Purchases from the fund thus established, down to January 31, 1911, have comprised 3,983 volumes.

THE TWENTIETH REGIMENT MILITARY COLLECTION. The money by which this collection was established was derived from the residue of a fund contributed by the Twentieth Regiment Association of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, for the erection of one of the St. Gaudens lions in the main staircase hall. This residue was dedicated to the equipment of a special alcove in the new building in Copley Square, to contain books relating to military affairs, and the initial expenditure from it, authorized by a vote of a committee of the Association, in 1896, was for books of special character relating to the Civil War. The endowment finally amounted to $5,000, which was funded in April, 1897, the income to be expended in the "purchase of books of a military and patriotic character, to be placed in the alcove appropriated as a memorial of the Twentieth Regiment." On the thirty-first of January, 1911, the collection included 2,105 volumes.

THE ALLEN A. BROWN DRAMATIC COLLECTION. In December, 1909, the Library received from Allen A. Brown, his valuable and extensive collection of books relating to the stage. In trans-

mitting this gift, Mr. Brown sent the following communication to the Trustees:

I wish to offer to the Public Library my collection of Books relating to the stage and gathered during the past fifty years, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

1st. The Collection to be known as the "Allen A. Brown Dramatic Collection," and to be kept in an apartment or alcove by itself, and located near the "Allen A. Brown Collection of Music." Each volume to bear a Book-plate or stamp designating the same as belonging to said Collection.

2d. That it shall be held by the Trustees and treated as a library of reference; nothing to be taken from the Library except for binding and needful repairs, or as hereinafter provided.

3d. That during my lifetime I may have free access to the Collection at all proper times, and may take from the building such volumes as I may need, holding myself responsible for their safe return.

4th. That I shall have the privilege of inserting in the works any items of interest such as bills of performances, notices of works, and various cuttings relating to the same.

5th. That a Catalogue of the Collection shall be made and issued by the Trustees within a reasonable period: Also that such portions of the Library as still remain unbound, shall be put in condition for the shelves without delay, and that the general style of binding I have adopted be preserved as far as possible.

I also reserve the right of placing the books upon the shelves, in such manner as may best carry out my ideas of economy of space and outward appearance.

The Trustees thereupon voted to accept the gift, subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in Mr. Brown's letter, and requested the President of the Board to transmit a copy of the record of acceptance, with suitable acknowledgment, to Mr.

Brown, in the name of the Corporation, which was done by the following letter:

January 7, 1910.

MY DEAR MR. BROWN:

I enclose herewith a certified copy of the record of the action of the Trustees in accepting the generous gift by you of the "Allen A. Brown Dramatic Collection." I beg to assure you not only for myself but for each member of the Board, that we very much appreciate your action in this matter, and trust you may long be able to give to this Collection the same care and attention you have so generously given to the "Allen A. Brown Collection of Music" which you presented to the Library in 1895. You have conferred a great public benefit upon our City, and have added still more to your monument in the Library for which we all have so much regard.

THE BROWNING COLLECTION, which constituted the library of the Boston Browning Society, was given to the Public Library in 1897 "without conditions, further than are implied by the expressed wish that they be kept together as a reference collection so long as the well-being of the Public Library itself permits, and that they be made fully accessible under the same rules that the Public Library maintains in the case of other similar collections." This collection, since enlarged by other gifts from the Browning Society, contains valuable material bearing upon the life and works of the poet, and now numbers 522 volumes.

In 1898, the Library received from the American Statistical Association its valuable STATISTICAL COLLECTION, especially rich in public documents of foreign countries, "the only condition being that the

purely statistical portion should be kept together, and that members of the Association should have free access to the shelves of this collection." This gift is placed in the Statistical Department of the Library, and additions are constantly made to the collection by other gifts of similar character, and by the purchase of current publications upon statistics, economics, and social science.

Of the importance of these gifts of valuable private libraries, and their influence in stimulating others, Mr. Greenough, the President of the Board of Trustees, remarked in 1877:

> There are certain features providentially developed in the history of the Boston Public Library which seem to forecast for it a career of high and honorable usefulness second to none in this country. One is the location within its walls of the entire collections of distinguished scholars, like the Bowditch collection, the Parker collection, the Ticknor collection, and others, embodying the results of years of careful thought, of patient research, of mature and ripened judgment, and of generous investment; results which money alone could never secure, and which, providentially placed within reach of all our citizens, suggest the desirableness of making even more special provision than now exists for the reception and preservation of such model private libraries as may be unusually rich and valuable in particular departments, the owners of which may feel solicitous to have them kept entire after their decease, and may be willing to set apart ample funds for their care and increase, provided they are assured that such libraries will be welcomed and preserved unscattered for the good of others, and will be assigned a special place for public consultation. The library of a man so great and good as Dr. Bowditch, for example, becomes in time to those in sympathy with his line of thought, or professionally

engaged in his sphere of worldly activity, a kind of intellectual shrine, where devotees from other places and from distant climes may come to do him reverence, or to honor the land which gave him birth, and study the institutions which made his greatness possible.

Besides these important special collections which have thus come into the possession of the Library, there have been other gifts of entire libraries or special groups of books, or, in some cases, of single books or manuscripts, each having distinct interest or importance, either on account of the subjects covered by them or by reason of the circumstances under which they were brought together by their owners. Such, for example, was the gift in 1870 from the children of Rev. William E. Channing of 285 volumes and 2,259 pamphlets; in 1873, from the Massachusetts Medical Society, of 1,887 volumes; in 1876, from Robert C. Winthrop and others, of the exceedingly interesting manuscript of Webster's reply to Hayne; and in 1877, of the entire library of the Boston Mercantile Library Association, comprising 18,000 volumes. In 1896, a collection of more than 1,100 photographs was given by her former pupils as a memorial to Miss Harriet Graupner, and this has recently been enlarged by others given by Mrs. Kingsmill Marrs. In the same year the Library received the Hiland Lockwood Library of 1,642 volumes, given by Mrs. Lockwood.

In 1897, the children of the late Dr. Benjamin Apthorp Gould gave 4,195 volumes, chiefly works

upon astronomy; and in 1898, the collection of books and pamphlets relating to numismatics made by the Boston Numismatic Society, was by this society given to the Library, together with the sum of $300 "for the benefit of the study of numismatics, with no other condition." During the same year, there was given to the Library, a collection of nearly 800 manuscript letters, comprising the correspondence of Miss Kate Field during a period of forty years. The Library received this collection through her literary executor, Miss Lilian Whiting. The Library also received from the family of William Lloyd Garrison, through Francis J. Garrison, an extensive collection of manuscript letters relating to the anti-slavery movement in the United States, continuing an earlier file presented by the same givers in 1894. Subsequently other gifts were made from the family, of manuscripts, portraits, and volumes belonging to Mr. Garrison, and through their influence, similar material was received from other sources. The Library therefore now possesses a notable collection of documents relating to the anti-slavery agitation, including the entire correspondence of Mr. Garrison; manuscripts from Maria (Weston) Chapman, presented by her niece, Miss Helen Weston; the papers of Amos A. Phelps, from his son, Edward A. Phelps, and many letters written by or to John Bishop Estlin, given by his daughter, Miss Estlin. The daughters of Samuel May have also given to this collection important papers received from their father, and Thomas W.

Higginson has presented letters relating to the John Brown affair at Harper's Ferry, and others concerning the Anthony Burns riot; of great value, since in them the events are described by one of the participants.

In 1900, Mrs. Rufus W. Griswold presented the literary correspondence of Mr. Griswold while he was editor of Graham's Magazine, and subsequently; and in 1900 the Anna Ticknor Library Association gave its library, formerly that of the Society to Encourage Studies at Home, consisting of 8,885 volumes, which were given especially to form part of the deposit collection, for the benefit of schools, study clubs, and classes. In August, 1907, the Library acquired by bequest the library of Abram E. Cutter, of Charlestown, comprising 2,790 volumes, together with the sum of $4,000 as a fund for maintaining the collection and for enlarging it. This library was especially rich in books relating to American history and biography, many of them finely bound. In October, 1908, the Library received, from the estate of the late Louise Chandler Moulton, some 1,200 volumes from which it was permitted to make a selection of such books as it desired. Nearly 900 volumes were chosen and placed on the shelves of this institution, not as a special collection, but to strengthen the Artz and Galatea Collections. A few volumes were placed in the general collection of the Library. Mrs. Moulton, who died on August 10, 1908, had for many years lived in Boston, and was identified with the literary interests

of the City. During her life of active authorship, she had formed many friendships in the world of letters. Many of the volumes received from her estate were gift copies, containing often the author's inscription to Mrs. Moulton, or frequently, more extended writing of a personal nature. A number of the books are copies of limited or numbered editions, especially issued for the author's use. The library bequeathed by the late Philip Bourke Marston to Mrs. Moulton was included and was a notable addition. Mrs. Moulton left no will, but before her death had expressed a wish that a portion of her books should go to the Boston Public Library, and this was complied with.

It is impossible within the space of this volume to describe in detail the large number of other gifts of this character, or to enumerate all of the instances in which considerable numbers of volumes have been received, either before or after the death of the givers, and when acquired by the Library have been distributed through the general collections, by classification based upon their contents.

Although the miscellaneous character of many of these gifts has made it inexpedient to keep them intact, and their widest public use has been promoted by distributing their contents through the general collection of books in the Library, nevertheless they have included many rare volumes, some of them not otherwise obtainable.

The Trust Funds of the Library, many of them received by bequest, while others have been pre-

sented during the lifetime of the givers, have materially augmented its resources. Some of these funds are restricted to special objects, others are unlimited. A few of them have been mentioned in the preceding pages as related to the historical development of the Library, or in connection with gifts of books which the funds were intended to enlarge. One of the latest funds to be established and the largest single gift in money ever received by the Library, equalling the gifts in money and in books from Joshua Bates, was given in May, 1903, from the estate of Robert C. Billings, of Boston. Mr. Billings was a member of a well-known family residing in West Roxbury, now part of the City. He was born January 3, 1819. Early in life he entered the employ of Thomas Tarbell & Co., afterwards Faulkner, Kimball & Co., an important mercantile establishment in Boston. Still later the firm became Faulkner, Page & Co., and at the time of his death, June 12, 1899, Mr. Billings was in point of years the senior partner. He amassed a large fortune, much of which he bequeathed to charitable and educational uses. Besides the sum of $100,000 to be funded and its income devoted to the purchase of books, the executors gave from the estate the sum of $8,902, which was expended for a medallion bust of Mr. Billings by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, which was placed in the wall of the north arcade of the interior court of the central library building.

The following table presents, in chronological order, a list of all the Trust Funds now held by the

ROBERT CHARLES BILLINGS.

Liberal benefactor of the Library. Born, Boston, January 3, 1819; died, Boston, June 12, 1899. Leading Boston merchant.

Robt. C. Dillon Jr.

Library, the source whence each was derived, the amount of the fund, the date of its reception, and the purpose to which the income is devoted. All the Trust Funds when received are by law required to be invested by the City Treasurer, under the direction of the Finance Committee of the City.

Giver.	Amount.	When rec'd.	Provisions.
John P. Bigelow	$1,000 00	Aug., 1850	Purchase of books.
Joshua Bates	50,000 00	Mar., 1853	To buy "books of permanent value."
Jonathan Phillips	30,000 00	1853-1861	"To the maintenance of a free public library" and the "purchase of books."
Abbott Lawrence	10,000 00	May, 1860	Books having a permanent value.
Franklin Club	1,000 00	June, 1863	Books of permanent value, preferably books on government and political economy.
Henry L. Pierce	5,000 00	Dec., 1873	"Books of permanent value for the Bates Hall."
Charlotte Harris	10,000 00	Aug., 1877	Books for Charlestown Branch, published before 1850.
Samuel A. Green	2,000 00	1878-1884	Books relating to American history.
Mary P. Townsend	4,000 00	April, 1879	Books five years old in some one edition.
George Ticknor	4,000 00	April, 1879	Books in Spanish and Portuguese, five years old in some one edition.
Citizen of So. Boston	100 00	Sept., 1879	For the benefit of South Boston Branch.
Arthur Scholfield	50,000 00	Dec., 1883	To be used for books of permanent value.
Thomas B. Harris	1,000 00	April, 1884	For benefit of the Charlestown Branch.
Daniel Treadwell	13,950 00	1885-1896	To be expended by the Trustees in such manner as they may deem for the best interests of the Library.
Edward Lawrence	500 00	May, 1886	"To hold and apply the income and so much of the principal as [the Trustees] may choose to the purchase of special books of reference to be kept and used only at the Charlestown Branch of the said Public Library."
J. Ingersoll Bowditch	10,000 00	Jan., 1890	For "the purchase of books of permanent value and authority in mathematics and astronomy," to be added to the Bowditch collection.
Carried forward	192,550,00		

Giver.	Amount.	When rec'd.	Provisions.
Brought forward	192,550.00		
Joseph Scholfield	11,800 00	July, 1890	"To be added to the Arthur Scholfield Fund."
Family of Charles Greely Loring	500 00	Jan., 1896	Memorial Fund, from the income of which books are to be bought for the West End Branch.
Charles Mead	2,500 00	Oct., 1896	"For the benefit of the South Boston Branch Library."
Victorine T. Artz	10,000 00	Nov., 1896	For the purchase of valuable and rare editions of the writings, either in verse or prose, of American and of Foreign authors, "to be known as the Longfellow Memorial Collection."
Twentieth Regiment Association	5,000 00	April, 1897	"For the purchase of books of a military and patriotic character, to be placed in the alcove appropriated as a Memorial of the Twentieth Regiment."
Papyrus Club	1,000 00	May, 1897	John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial Fund "for the purchase of books."
William C. Todd	50,000 00	Oct., 1897	The income to be expended annually for current newspapers of this and other countries.
Caleb D. Bradlee	1,000 00	Nov., 1897	Unrestricted.
Friends of Henry Sargent Codman	2,800 00	Jan., 1898	For the purchase of books upon landscape gardening.
Daniel S. Ford	6,000 00	June, 1900	For the purchase of books adapted to youth.
Abram E. Cutter	4,000 00	May, 1901	For the purchase of books and for binding for the Abram E. Cutter collection.
Mrs. John A. Lewis	5,000 00	April, 1903	For the purchase of old and rare books to be added to the John A. Lewis library.
Robert C. Billings	100,000 00	May, 1903	For the purchase of books.
Joseph H. Center	39,200 00	Dec., 1905	For the purchase of books.
Nathan A. Tufts	10,000 00	Nov., 1906	For the purchase of books for the Charlestown Branch.
Total	$441,350 00		

Other important gifts of money not intended to be funded include, *1852,* James Brown, $500; Samuel Appleton, $1,000; *1853,* James Nightingale, $100; J. Ingersoll Bowditch, $300; *1855,* Mrs. Sally I. K. Shepard, $1,000; *1865,* J. L. Stoddart, $100; *1866,* through John P. Bigelow, $160; *1878,* George B. Chase (for subscriptions to periodicals), $200; *1897,* a subscription gift for the purchase of photographs, $1,321; *1899,* Godfrey M. Hyams, $1,000; *1908,* a bequest under the will of Patrick F. Sullivan, for the purchase of standard Catholic books, $5,000; *1909,* Mrs. Bayard Thayer, $441, following gifts previously made.

Gifts to the Library have not been confined to books or money. Important gifts of works of art, by years, include: *1858,* the portrait of Benjamin Franklin, by Duplessis, presented by Edward Brooks; a figure in marble, the Arcadian Shepherd, by W. W. Story, given by several citizens; *1859,* Copley's picture of Charles the First demanding the impeached members of Parliament, given by citizens; *1860,* a bust of Theodore Parker, by W. W. Story, from the estate of Mrs. Parker; *1865,* a portrait of Joshua Bates, by Eden W. Eddis, and a bust of Mr. Bates, copied from the original by William Behnes, presented by Mr. Bates's daughter; a group in marble, the Holy Family, by Julius Troschel, presented by Gardner Brewer; *1866,* a silver vase presented to Daniel Webster in 1835, given by citizens; *1867,* a bust of Edward Everett, by Thomas Ball, presented by subscribers; a bust of J. Lothrop

Motley, by R. S. Greenough, given by Thomas B. Curtis; *1868,* a bust of George Ticknor, by Martin Milmore, presented by citizens; *1869,* an antique bust presented by Signor Alessandro Ceccarini; the Tosti collection of engravings given by Thomas G. Appleton; plaster busts of Washington Irving (by Ball Hughes) and of Elisha Kent Kane (by Peter Reniers), given by Jonathan French.

In *1872,* a portrait of Benjamin Franklin, by Greuze, presented by Gardner Brewer; a painting representing the fire in State Street, Boston, November, 1832, by Salmon, also a plaster bust of Edmund Burke, presented by John G. Loring; *1876,* a gold medal, presented to Washington, by Congress, in commemoration of the evacuation of Boston by the British troops in 1776, purchased by fifty citizens of Boston for deposit in the Library; *1881,* a bust of John G. Whittier, by Powers, given by citizens of Boston; *1885,* a bust of Thomas G. Appleton, given by Captain Nathan Appleton and others; a bust of Cervantes, by Solà, presented by the heirs of George Ticknor; a bronze statuette of Daniel Webster, bequeathed by ex-Mayor Joseph M. Wightman; a plaster bust of Nathaniel Bowditch, by Ball Hughes, given by the sons of N. Bowditch to the Bowditch School, and transferred to the Library; *1888,* a bust of ex-Mayor Hugh O'Brien, by Donoghue, given by M. M. Cunniff; the Franklin and other medals by Dupré, purchased in France by William S. Appleton for the Library, from the income of the Green fund with the approval of Dr.

Green; two sitting lions (on the main stairway of the new building) done in Siena marble by Louis Saint-Gaudens, presented by the Second and Twentieth Massachusetts Infantry Associations; *1892,* a plaster bust of Laplace, transferred to the Library from Harvard College, by request of Dr. Henry I. Bowditch.

In *1893,* a statuette in plaster of ex-Governor John A. Andrew, by Martin Milmore, given by S. R. Urbino; *1894,* an oil painting, Saints Justa and Rufina, by Fernandez, given by Miss Ellen Chase; *1895,* busts of Christ and Lucifer, by Greenough, given by Horatio S. Greenough; the sum of $15,000, obtained by subscription, for completing the mural paintings by John S. Sargent; a bronze statue of Sir Harry Vane, by MacMonnies, presented by Dr. Charles G. Weld and others; a marble copy of the Venus de Medici given by Mrs. John Ellerton Lodge; a bust of William W. Greenough, by Richard S. Greenough, given by Mrs. W. W. Greenough; a bust of Oliver Wendell Holmes, ordered by the City Government, from the sculptor, Richard E. Brooks; a portrait of George Ticknor, by Sully, given by Miss Anna E. Ticknor; a bust of Franklin (attributed to Ceracchi), presented by Frank Wood; a bust of Whittier, given by the sculptor, William Ordway Partridge; a tablet (placed in the Fine Arts Department), in memory of Professor Eugène Létang, who, coming to Boston from France in 1871, taught architectural design for twenty-two years at the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, given by the Boston Society of Architects; paintings by Howard Pyle, illustrative of scenes in the life of Washington and in Colonial times, given by friends of the Library; a marble replica of Powers's Greek Slave, given by Mrs. Margaret S. Otis; a bust of John Boyle O'Reilly, by Donoghue, purchased by the City Council; *1899,* a marble bust of Walter Scott, presented by the Westminster (England) Committee on the Scott Memorial; a bust of Wendell Phillips, by Milmore, given by A. Shuman through the Wendell Phillips Memorial Association; a portrait in oil of Dr. James Freeman Clarke, by E. T. Billings, presented by members of the Church of the Disciples, in Boston, through William Howell Reed; a bust of General Francis A. Walker, purchased under a city appropriation, from the sculptor, R. E. Brooks; medals and coins from George B. Knapp, in memory of Arthur M. Knapp.

In *1901,* the ceiling decoration "The Triumph of Time," by John Elliott, for the Children's Reference Room, given by citizens of Boston; *1904,* a bronze tablet by C. W. Harley (placed in the Allen A. Brown Music Room), in memory of famous writers of patriotic songs, presented by the Massachusetts Society, Daughters of the Revolution; bust of Lucy Stone, by Anne Whitney, given by subscribers; *1907,* historical portraits (in oil) of ministers formerly connected with the West Church (now the West End Branch building), to be hung at the Branch, presented by Miss Elizabeth Bartol; *1909,*

marble bust of James Fenimore Cooper, by Horatio Greenough, given by the children of Charles Henry Parker; replica of bronze bust of Archbishop Williams of Boston, by Samuel J. Kitson, presented by Catholics of Boston; portrait (in oil) of Dr. J. V. C. Smith, formerly Mayor of Boston, by Thomas T. Speare, given by Mrs. Emma F. Black; bronze bust of Hahnemann, by Woltreck, given by Mrs. Christian E. Geist; two large photographs of Alpine scenery; 28 photographic copies of the portrait of Abraham Lincoln (to be hung at the Central Library and Branches), given by Josiah H. Benton. The gifts of the tablet in memory of Mr. Todd (in the Newspaper Room) and the bronze medallion of Robert Charles Billings (in the court arcade) have been previously mentioned.

CHAPTER VI.

THE Library was fortunate in having from the beginning the unswerving and devoted service on its Board of Trustees of public spirited citizens who not only possessed the scholarship and breadth of view required in the work, but who gave to it their time and energy with an eye single to the public welfare. It was fortunate also that neither political considerations nor personal interests were permitted to disturb the tenure of members of the Board who were willing to undertake such service. Under these circumstances men of high standing in professional and business life have considered it an honor to become trustees.

Edward Everett was President of the Trustees from 1852 until 1864. George Ticknor, who, like Everett, had been a member at the outset, succeeded him in the presidency, leaving the Board during the following year. William W. Greenough then became President, continuing in the office until April, 1888. Thus for 36 years there were but two changes in the Presidency of the Trustees. The tenure of office of Mr. Everett as a member of the Board covered 12 years and that of Mr. Ticknor 13, while Mr. Greenough devoted the long term of 32 years to the service. During this period of 36 years these three men, more than any others, con-

trolled the policy of the Library, and in shaping it during the early years Everett and Ticknor were predominant. Although of different type both were men of marked influence in their day, and for the work in hand no better counsellors could have been provided. They were colleagues at Harvard College and held similar opinions as to the value of literary training. They each had a closer connection with European culture than was common at that time in America, and they were moved by the same desire to extend, as far as possible, to those without other resources, the intellectual opportunities offered by a well-selected library.

Mr. Everett was a man of wide learning and great versatility, a Greek scholar of eminence, supplementing his course at Harvard by two years at the University of Göttingen and by residence in the European centres of art and literature; a man of literary accomplishment, as shown by his connection with the North American Review, in which during the years 1820–24 he is represented by numerous papers, by his life of Washington and by other biographical and miscellaneous essays. He was a distinguished orator, and extensively occupied in public affairs,—Governor of Massachusetts, three times reelected, member of the national House of Representatives and of the Senate, Secretary of State, and Minister to England.

George Ticknor, less in the public eye than Mr. Everett, a man of refined and scholarly tastes, which, happily, circumstances permitted him to

gratify, brought to the service of the new institution the ripe judgment of a cultivated man of letters, already shown in the selection of an extensive private library which he had made accessible to others with a liberality that is still remembered. He became Smith professor of modern languages and literature at Harvard, after four years of preparatory foreign study, part of which were spent with Everett at Göttingen. These were followed by other years of research in Europe, especially devoted to the literature of Spain, of which we have the fruit in his "History of Spanish Literature," winning, upon its publication in 1849, the immediate recognition and approval of scholars at home and abroad. His wide knowledge of the best books and his acquaintance with the contents of the great European libraries were of great value to the Library. He was largely responsible for the system under which the earlier accessions (down to 1858) were selected and bought. His clear conception of what the Library was to become and his guiding hand toward the desired end are plainly apparent in the earlier reports of the institution.

Mr. Greenough, although intimately acquainted with Oriental literature, was less distinguished in scholarship than either Everett or Ticknor, and was not widely known beyond Massachusetts. He was neither devoted to letters like Ticknor nor did he combine the love of letters with extensive public employment like Everett; but, as the course of the library became settled, knowledge

of men and business training such as Mr. Greenough possessed, were needed as well as knowledge of books, and his services were of great value in determining the many practical details of administration. He was of a type not uncommon in New England life, a man of literary tastes, sympathetically drawn toward the work the Library was undertaking, and able to give his time to it. He knew the Library as few trustees have known it. His long term of service made him familiar with what the public wanted. He knew what experiments in library administration had failed and through what methods success was likely to be attained. From 1856 down to 1868, when the growth of the Library made it necessary to put such work in the hands of a trained staff, Mr. Greenough was mainly responsible for the examination of sales catalogues, and for the direct purchases of books in English and French. For 22 years he also prepared the annual reports. Upon his resignation, May 7, 1888, the Trustees said:

> The value to the city of his faithful services cannot be overestimated. For thirty years, as trustee without pay, he daily devoted to the work of the Library as much time and labor as most men devote to their private affairs. His connection with the Library began in its infancy; and to his wisdom and energy are due, perhaps more than to any other one cause, the wonderful growth and success of the institution. Mr. Greenough felt compelled, by considerations of health and private affairs, to lay down the cares and responsibilities of a position that required so large a share of his strength and thought, and that he had so long filled with credit to himself and advantage to the public.

Mr. Greenough died June 17, 1899, retaining his interest in the Library until the last.

To these men, supported by their colleagues in the Board of Trustees, was due the policy of the Library during its formative years, and until its sphere of usefulness had become well established. The full measure of their services cannot be appreciated unless we constantly remember that in their hands the Boston Library was not merely solving for itself the problems of successful popular library administration, but was establishing precedents for the development of public libraries as municipal institutions.

Speaking of conditions at the time the Library was projected, Mr. Ticknor said, "The project was regarded by many whose judgment and influence could neither be wisely nor safely overlooked, as an experiment, promising little real or lasting good to the city." But later, when results could no longer be questioned, he could also say, without fear of contradiction, "It is an institution which does great good to great numbers and does it every day." And the Trustees in their report for 1877, eleven years before Mr. Greenough closed his connection with the Board, summed up 25 years of progress in a single paragraph, true then, but much more pertinent now, as follows:

> Founded for the advancement of popular education it has amply fulfilled the original expectation of becoming "at last a great and rich library for men of science, statesmen, and scholars." . . . . . "It may well be left," where it

originally was left, "to the judicious liberality of the City Government and the public spirit of the community."

It is well to note clearly what their policy contemplated. In the view of these men, who may be called the fathers of the public library movement, such a library was regarded as completing the system of public education. To put it in a sentence of their own, the public school system "bestowed upon our children the keys of knowledge, but the treasure itself was within the reach only of those whose private means gave them access to large collections of books; not to dwell on the fact that the amplest private collections can but partially supply the place, even for those who have the use of them, of a liberally endowed public library."[1] They established a high standard. While they aimed to keep the Library liberally supplied with current literature they discouraged the purchase of merely ephemeral books. They thought the library "should not be regarded as a depository of books of the latter description. They are so cheap that they can be otherwise obtained by almost every one who wishes to read them; they occupy space on the shelves better filled by better books."[2] But they provided for all classes of readers, and were solicitous that works should be purchased pertaining to American history, biography, statistics and general literature, since an American library should be rich in all that relates to the development of our own nation.

They determined that the interests of broad

1 Report, 1857.
2 *Ibid.*

scholarship should be served by specimens of the literature of other countries, and they therefore bought numerous volumes in foreign languages, and in this direction were not unmindful of the needs of the foreign-born population. More than 50 years ago, they said: "There is in Boston a large population which speaks some one of these languages as their mother tongue. All will feel that it is for the public benefit, that this class of our citizens should have the means of improving their minds in common with the rest of the public."[3] As to the needs of students they added: "There is also a large and steadily increasing class of our native population, who read foreign languages, and who stand in especial need of the aid of a public library in procuring books, for the very reason that works in those languages are less abundant and less easily obtained from private sources."[4] Their intention was that "the earnest student trained in our schools, however poor he may be, and the mechanic and professional man, may find and may freely use the means for the highest intellectual achievements." In line with this policy the library privileges were from the first open to all "with a freedom quite extraordinary."[5] And finally, as to fiction, their policy, aside from their inclination to purchase chiefly books of permanent worth, was determined by the belief that the use of otherwise unoccupied time in reading books without immoral tendency, in any department of literature,

3 Report, 1857.
4 *Ibid.*
5 Report, 1865.

tends to diminish crime which is fostered by idleness, and promotes better citizenship generally.

Mr. Ticknor had from the beginning very broad views as to the work of a public library. He did not disregard, nor did he underestimate the value of a reference collection to be used within the library walls, as appears from his letter accompanying his extensive gift of such books in 1860.[6] But he saw clearly the need of providing for a more popular use of books, particularly in the homes of the people, through a liberal lending system, involving a duplication of popular books, such as all public libraries afterward adopted. As early as July 14, 1851, he wrote to Mr. Everett:

> It has seemed to me, for many years, that such a free public library, if adapted to the wants of our people, would be the crowning glory of our public schools. But I think it important that it should be adapted to our peculiar character; that is, that it should come in at the end of our system of free instruction, and be fitted to continue and increase the effects of that system by the self-culture that results from reading. . . . . The great obstacle to this with us is not — as it is in Prussia and elsewhere — a low condition of the mass of the people, condemning them as soon as they escape from school, and often before it, to such severe labor, in order to procure the coarsest means of physical subsistence, that they have no leisure for intellectual culture, and soon lose all taste for it. . . . . .
>
> Now what seems to me to be wanted in Boston is an apparatus that shall carry this taste for reading as deep as possible into society, assuming, what I believe to be true, that it can be carried deeper in our society than in any other in the world, because we are better fitted for it. To do this I would

6 Page 126 *ante.*

establish a library which, in its *main* department and purpose should differ from all free libraries yet attempted; I mean one in which any popular books, tending to moral and intellectual improvement, should be furnished in such numbers of copies that many persons, if they desired it, could be reading the same work at the same time; in short, that not only the best books of all sorts, but the pleasant literature of the day, should be made accessible to the whole people at the only time when they care for it, *i. e.*, when it is fresh and new. I would, therefore, continue to buy additional copies of any book of this class, almost as long as they should continue to be asked for, and thus, by following the popular taste, — unless it should demand something injurious, — create a real appetite for healthy general reading. This appetite, once formed, will take care of itself.

To this letter Mr. Everett replied:

The extensive circulation of new and popular works is a feature of a public library which I have not hitherto much contemplated. It deserves to be well weighed, and I shall be happy hereafter to confer with you on the subject. I cannot deny that my views have, since my younger days, undergone some change as to the practicability of freely loaning books at home from large public libraries. Those who have been connected with the administration of such libraries are apt to get discouraged by the loss and damage resulting from the loan of books. My present impressions are in favor of making the amplest provision in the library for the use of books there.

Your plan, however, is intended to apply only to a particular class of books, and does not contemplate the unrestrained circulation of those of which the loss could not be easily replaced.

Mr. Ticknor was so firmly impressed with the importance of his plan for extending the popular use of books by means of the Library that he would not

have identified himself with the movement under other conditions. In his letter to the Trustees in 1860, previously cited, after mentioning that he felt especial interest in this department of the work, he says: "This is known to all the Trustees with whom I have successively served, and our President remembers that I never would have put my hand to the institution at all, except with this understanding as to its main object and management. Nor has there been any real difference on this point among the different persons who have controlled its affairs during the eight years of its existence." The coöperation of the other Trustees with him undoubtedly determined the trend of the public library movement. Its development upon what may be called its popular side, not only in Boston but everywhere, has proceeded continuously in the direction contemplated by Mr. Ticknor, but never without due regard to the provision of the ample reading-room privileges referred to by Mr. Everett. Thousands of volumes in Boston, as in every large public library, are now accessible to all, upon open shelves, without formality, and the larger part of these may either be used at the reading tables or may be taken out for use at home, upon liberal conditions. In many cases volumes reserved for use within the building are duplicated by circulating copies for home use.

After Mr. Greenough's resignation Professor Henry W. Haynes, whose terms of service upon the Board numbered about 16 years, succeeded to the presidency for a brief term. Upon his retirement in

1894, alluding especially to his assistance in the supervision of the work upon the new building not then quite completed, the Trustees put upon record that they had "been greatly assisted by his long experience in business matters, his administrative capacity, and his watchful scrutiny of details as the arduous work progresses." He was succeeded by Samuel A. B. Abbott, who served eight years as President, his full period of service as a member of the Board covering 16 years. The numerous details incident to the work of construction of the new building in Copley Square had largely rested within his control. The work was congenial, but involved a heavy burden of responsibility. The character of the completed building, its arrangement, design, and general architectural success, were due in no slight degree to the earnest support which, in the face of much criticism, he gave to the architects, in carrying out their conceptions in a manner not only scholarly and refined, but far in advance of the standards at that time obtaining in municipal architecture.

Upon the expiration of Mr. Abbott's term upon the Board, April 30, 1895, Frederick O. Prince became President, serving until May 8, 1899. He resigned from the Board only a short time before his death, which occurred June 6, in that year.

Solomon Lincoln, who became a member of the Board in 1897, succeeded Mr. Prince as President, serving until his death, October 15, 1907. Rev. James De Normandie succeeded Mr. Lincoln,

FREDERICK OCTAVIUS PRINCE.

Trustee of the Library, 1888–1899. President of the Board, 1895–1899. Born, Boston, January 18, 1818; died, Boston, June 6, 1899. Harvard College, class of 1836; lawyer; Mayor of Boston, 1877; 1879–1881.

Frederick O. Prince

serving as President until May 8, 1908. Dr. De Normandie became a member of the Board in 1895, and resigned May 8, 1908. He was succeeded as President by the present incumbent, Josiah H. Benton, who became a member of the Board in May, 1894.

The rolls of the Examining Committee, which under the ordinance is appointed each year by the Trustees, to examine the Library and make a report of its condition to the Board, include the names of men eminent at the bar, in the church, and in literary life, of journalists, men of national and international fame, and of many earnest women, whose candid and unselfish advice has been of the greatest benefit to the institution. The first Examining Committee made its report November 10, 1853. Its members were Abbott Lawrence, William H. Prescott, Rollin H. Neale, and George S. Hillard, and with them was joined George Ticknor, from the Board of Trustees. The ordinance at first specified the appointment of "citizens." In 1877, Mrs. Kate Gannett Wells was appointed, and in 1878 the ordinance was amended so as to require the annual appointment by the Board of Trustees, "of not less than five *persons,* not members of said Board, who, shall examine the Library," and make a report of its condition to the Trustees. The effect of this amendment was to authorize explicitly the appointment of women. The year 1879 was the first in which more than five persons were appointed, and it was not until 1881 that another woman served upon the Com-

mittee. In that year Mrs. Georgiana W. Smith and Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney were appointed. Since then appointments of women have been frequent.

The fidelity and skill of the staff should be recognized. As the Trustees significantly remarked, in commenting on the high plane the Library had reached in 1888: "The end could not have been attained except by the aid of the devotion and skill of a trained body of officers and employees, many of whom have passed the best years of their lives in the library service."

As in the case of the Trustees, the long tenure of the staff officers, during which their accumulations of experience became increasingly valuable, has had much to do with the welfare of the Library. Appointments, as in the other educational institutions of the City, were based upon fitness, and the tenure has depended on merit and fidelity. Prior to the present incumbent, there have been but seven chief executive officers, variously styled Librarian or Superintendent, not including Dr. Green, whose brief incumbency *ad interim*, while trustee, has been noted. All have closed their connection with the library service by voluntary resignation or through death.

Five of the seven, Messrs. Capen, Jewett, Winsor, Chamberlain and Whitney are no longer living. Edward Capen, the first Librarian, continued in the service with no change in title after the appointment of Mr. Jewett as chief executive officer with the title of Superintendent. Of Mr.

SOLOMON LINCOLN.

Trustee of the Library, 1897–1907. President of the Board, 1899–1907. Born, Hingham (Mass.), August 14, 1838; died, Boston, October 15, 1907. Harvard College, class of 1857; lawyer; Overseer, Harvard (President of Board), 1890–1902; President of Bar Association of the City of Boston, 1885–1886.

Thomas Lynch.

Capen the Examining Committee remarked in 1862: "The Librarian has held his position from the first days of the institution, and has filled it with intelligence, fidelity, and zeal for which no commendation is too high." Mr. Capen resigned December 16, 1874, to accept the position of Librarian at Haverhill, Massachusetts. He died October 20, 1901. Mr. Jewett, his successor, possessed an extended knowledge of bibliographical detail. As stated in the report of the Trustees for 1877: "He brought to the office the knowledge of the bibliographer, the experience of the book-buyer in the great marts of Europe, a perception of the needs of American educators and education, the tendencies and wants of specialists, and above and beyond this a system of rendering a collection of books useful to its readers by a form of catalogue original and superior to any previously existing." To him was due the first index of the Bates Hall Collection (1861) and the Supplement (1866).

Instead of a mere list of books arranged alphabetically under titles or authors, with occasional subject divisions, Mr. Jewett adopted the dictionary arrangement, enabling "the seeker to find the works wanted, if contained in the Library, upon the subjects to be explored, without knowing the name of any author or the title of any book on the subject, by seeking the subject in its alphabetical place." This, at the time, was a distinct novelty in catalogue work, and attracted general attention, winning for Mr. Jewett and for the institution much praise, not

only here but abroad. He also introduced a slip system of recording loans, displacing the old ledger system, and elaborated the card system of cataloguing which had been devised by Mr. Folsom of the Boston Athenæum.

Jointly with H. R. Taylor, a cabinet maker, Mr. Jewett designed a mechanical indicator frame, showing "at a glance, without the necessity of reference to an attendant of the Library, whether any book sought, is, at the moment, on the shelf or lent out; and, therefore, rendering it unnecessary to send in a card requesting books which cannot be procured." In the course of time other means of determining whether or not a book desired by a borrower has been already taken out, were adopted in this and other libraries, but when introduced this somewhat crude indicator was a novelty, and its simplicity of construction illustrated Mr. Jewett's ingenuity. In an upright framework strips of wood, each representing a shelf, were placed one above another. Reversible pins, each representing a book, were inserted in these strips. The strips carried the shelf-numbers and the pins the book numbers, plainly printed in black and white. When the book was lent, the pin was at once reversed, indicating the fact. The device was readily understood even by children, and for some time served its purpose well.

Mr. Jewett was attacked by apoplexy while in the Library, January 8, 1868, and was conveyed to his home in Braintree, where he died before daybreak the next morning.

To the administrative ability and initiative of Justin Winsor, who, February 25, 1868, succeeded Mr. Jewett, other improvements in the service are due. The number of days during which the Library was annually closed to the public was by him reduced from 86 to the five legal holidays only, the closing for the examination of books being rendered unnecessary by the introduction, in 1869, of a system of continuous examination. This was the outcome of the slip system of recording loans, now generally adopted in public libraries, under which it became possible to keep the circulation in progress continuously. Mr. Winsor introduced improvements in cataloguing, and novel annotated bibliographical indexes and lists. Notable among these was the Guide to Historical Fiction issued under Mr. Winsor in 1871, the titles being arranged in their relation to historical events, by countries, and by persons. A consolidated Class-list of Books in History, Biography, Geography, and Travel, mentioned hereinbefore as the first catalogue with notes, appeared in 1873, with "notes appended to the principal cross-references, and intended to assist readers in the choice of books." This was followed by a Catalogue of English Prose Fiction, of which the first edition appeared in 1877. The annotations, as Mr. Winsor explained, were devised in order "to direct the ductile perceptions of the less learned among readers," or, to quote Mr. Winsor again, "to render the ordinary reader more able to choose to his liking when an indistinguishable mass of equivalent titles perplexed him."

The Chronological Index of Historical Fiction, issued in 1875 as a second and enlarged edition of the guide above referred to, was thus profusely annotated, by "interpolating sections of historical references for pointing out the sources of the plots and delineations, and for marking the methods of parallel reading." George B. Emerson, the eminent educator, said of the annotated Catalogue of History, Biography, Geography, and Travel, "I have never seen anything so excellent, and hereafter no large catalogue will be considered complete without something similar appended to it." An English librarian remarked, "I have shown it to some of the profession here, and they are as much astonished at the idea, as at the execution of it. The labor of such a work is . . . . . beyond our resources and methods." Notwithstanding the development of the catalogue under Mr. Jewett, the catalogue force was far from efficiently organized. This condition was remedied under Mr. Winsor. Upon leaving the Library, September 30, 1877, Mr. Winsor became Librarian of Harvard College, dying while holding that position, October 22, 1897.

Under Mr. Chamberlain, who, October 1, 1878, followed Mr. Winsor, a plan was suggested for uniting more closely the public schools and the Library, a result accomplished some years afterward by a scheme of coöperation, together with the establishment of special provisions for children at the Central Library and branches. Mr. Chamberlain also suggested the value of free lectures, now fully

developed, as a feature of library work. In outlining his plans he said:

What every good book needs is a good teacher behind it. Sometimes this teacher may be another book; but better still a living, personal influence. . . . . I would seek to secure such healthful association by establishing more intimate relations between the Public Library and the personal educational force of the public schools. Not that either should be merged in the other or delegate its functions to the other; but that each working after the law of its organic life should coöperate with the other in their common purpose of educating the community. The best literature of the Public Library should find its way into the public schools; and the best influence of the public schools should accompany those who enter the Public Library. . . . . I am not aware that the experiment has yet been tried of a course of lectures in a public library designed to induce the critical and appreciative reading of the best things in literature. . . . I should look hopefully to the results of an experiment in this direction, the details of which I reserve for some less public expression.

Concerning these suggestions, Rev. Father Bodfish, for the Examining Committee, said:

We desire to commend the effort of the Superintendent and Trustees to coöperate with the School Committee in exercising a supervision over the books delivered to the school children. It would surely be inconsistent for the City, while endeavoring to cultivate the mind and taste of the young in school, to deliver to them, from the shelves of the Library, books which would be to them injurious.

The Committee also commended the suggestion as to free educational lectures. The service of Mr. Chamberlain as Librarian terminated by his resignation, September 30, 1890. Under the corporate organization of the Trustees the chief execu-

tive was again called Librarian, this title being first given to Mr. Chamberlain, and afterwards to his successors. Theodore F. Dwight served as Librarian from April 13, 1892, until his resignation April 30, 1894. In February, 1895, as the building in Copley Square was approaching completion, Herbert Putnam became Librarian. His previous experience in library management, and his skill as an executive officer were immediately of great value in meeting the problems presented upon the occupancy of the new building. He perfected the organization of the Library in its new environment, and prepared it for the larger place it was assuming in the life of the City. By his learning, tact and executive ability he greatly expanded its usefulness. April 3, 1899, he resigned to accept appointment as Librarian of Congress. James L. Whitney, who for many years had occupied responsible staff positions and who was at the time Chief of the Catalogue Department, became Acting Librarian upon Mr. Putnam's resignation, and was appointed Librarian December 22, 1899; Otto Fleischner, Custodian of Special Libraries, receiving the appointment of Assistant Librarian on the twelfth of January following. Mr. Whitney resigned on account of illness, February 1, 1903, and was succeeded by the present incumbent. Mr. Whitney retained connection with the Library however, as Chief of the Department of Documents and Statistics, until his death, September 25, 1910.

There have been many members of the staff

who have given long and faithful service to the Library. Some still retain a connection with it which has continued many years. Others have died while in service. It is impossible here to record every instance, or even to mention the names, of those who, perhaps in minor positions, have by earnest and painstaking attention to duty, materially promoted the prosperity and influence of the institution. A few, however, of those who aided in the development of the Library and who are not now in service should not be omitted.

William E. Jillson, a General Assistant under Mr. Jewett, was previously Librarian of the Patent Office at Washington. After Mr. Jewett's death, the appointment of Superintendent was offered to him, but declined on account of illness. He died before the close of the year.[7] The Trustees by resolution recognized his rare attainments, practical efficiency, and discriminating talents.

William A. Wheeler joined the staff in 1868, becoming Assistant Superintendent in that year, succeeding Mr. Jillson. Later, he had direct charge of the Catalogue Department. Besides engaging in educational work, before entering the Library, he had been connected with the preparation of a new edition of Worcester's Dictionary, and afterwards supervised the Unabridged Quarto edition and other smaller volumes of the Webster series. His later accomplishments in authorship are well known, including the Dictionary of Noted Names of Fic-

7 November 27, 1868.

tion, and other philological and biographical reference books. He was a thorough bibliographical scholar, and his critical work at the Library appears in the Prince and Ticknor Catalogues, in the Lists of Engravings and the bulletins issued from time to time, and in the general card catalogue. He died October 28, 1874, after an illness of three weeks.

James L. Whitney succeeded Mr. Wheeler in charge of the Catalogue Department. Mr. Whitney's later service as Librarian and afterward in the Department of Documents and Statistics has been mentioned previously. He was connected with the Library nearly 41 years. While in charge of the Catalogue Department he edited for publication the important Ticknor Catalogue of Spanish and Portuguese Books, the Hand Book for Readers, the Bulletin of books added to the Library, and other printed catalogues and publications. All of these, particularly the Ticknor Catalogue, with its elaborate notes, exhibited the scholarly research and literary care which marked his work as a cataloguer. The public card catalogue, in its present form, is principally due to him. It grew under his supervision during 20 years of painstaking effort, and the result secured not only the appreciative recognition of readers who found the catalogue a practical guide to the collections within the Library, but also the unqualified commendation of competent experts.

James M. Hubbard, who joined the staff at the time of Mr. Wheeler's death, prepared the first part of the noteworthy Barton Catalogue.

JAMES LYMAN WHITNEY.

Librarian, 1899–1903. Born, Northampton (Mass.), November 28, 1835; died, Cambridge (Mass.), September 25, 1910. Yale College, class of 1856; Assistant Librarian, Cincinnati Public Library, 1868; Catalogue Department, Boston Public Library, 1869; Chief of Catalogue Department, 1874–1899; Chief of Department of Documents and Statistics, 1903–1910.

James L. Whitney

William H. Foster, after 30 years' service, died at his home in Andover, November 2, 1888. He had devoted much time to the careful revision and proof-reading of the Catalogues of the Lower Hall and Branch Libraries, thereby promoting accuracy of form and statement in these important publications.

Appleton P. C. Griffin, Custodian of the shelves, entered the Library service in December, 1865, closing his connection in October, 1894, a term of 29 years.

José F. Carret died at his home in Cambridge in 1897, while a member of the library staff. He had served more than 22 years, part of the time as Curator of the Patent Room, and of engravings, and later as Custodian of the shelves. With valuable assistance from his colleague, Mr. Knapp, who besides other attainments possessed extensive knowledge of Shakespearian and general Elizabethan literature, Mr. Carret completed the miscellaneous section of the Barton Catalogue.

Arthur Mason Knapp entered the Library service January 23, 1875, his first assignment being that of Custodian of the special collections. In 1878 he became Custodian of Bates Hall, the reference department of the Library, remaining in that position until his death, December 27, 1898. His special knowledge of genealogy and local history, as well as of the general resources of the Library, made his services in this position of great value, and they were rendered with an entire devotion to the

interests of the Library and its ever widening circle of readers.

Edward Browne Hunt entered the service June 1, 1883, and by successive promotions filled important positions in the Catalogue Department, finally becoming its Chief on February 1, 1900. His natural qualifications for the important work entrusted to him, his literary attainments and his exact and scholarly methods, developed through years of experience, made him a valuable member of the staff. He died while in service, February 9, 1906.

CHAPTER VII.

IT seems fitting to supplement the history of the Library with a condensed account of its present condition and method of operation. The material for this chapter is largely drawn from an address on "The working of the Boston Public Library," given by Mr. Josiah H. Benton, President of the Trustees, before the Beacon Society of Boston, January 2, 1909. The statistics, however, have been revised and brought down to the end of the latest fiscal year, January 31, 1911.

As real estate the Library consists of 29 pieces of land and buildings or parts of buildings in different parts of the City, of an aggregate value of about $4,500,000. The central library building has cost up to the present time, exclusive of the land upon which it stands, $2,734,284.56. The City also owns nine other pieces of real estate occupied for library purposes, and the other buildings or parts of buildings occupied for library purposes are leased at an annual rental of $16,933. In addition to rental paid for these leased premises, sums which in the aggregate are large have been paid for the necessary and proper adaptation of the premises to library purposes.

The floor area in daily use in these premises amounts to 260,000 square feet, or nearly 60 acres.

All these different buildings and premises must be kept in repair, cleaned, policed, heated, lighted and maintained in proper condition for library use. The care of the central library building alone requires the protection, repair, cleaning, lighting, heating and maintenance of a building which covers 65,000 square feet of land, and has a floor area in daily use of 150,000 square feet. It has seating capacity for about 900 readers, and a lecture hall which will seat 450 persons. This building contains among other machinery and appliances a heating, lighting, ventilating and electric power plant with three 100-horse-power boilers and two tandem compound engines of 150-horse-power each; also two dynamos with capacity for 3,600 sixteen-candle-power, 110 volt, electric lamps; eight pumps; four ventilating fans; eight electric motors with capacity of from two to 20-horse-power each; two passenger elevators; ten electric book-lifts; and a vacuum cleaning apparatus with piping so arranged that all the books on any floor can be cleaned by the use of it. The building is also equipped with a pneumatic-tube and electric-carrier system for the transmission of call slips for books between the different departments and the book stacks, and of books between the stacks and the different departments. The operation of the plant requires about 1,600 tons of coal annually.

As personal property the Library is primarily a collection of nearly 1,000,000 books, of which 746,514 are in the Central Library and the remainder in the various branches and reading-room sta-

tions. The nine largest branches contain, upon an average, more than 20,000 volumes each. There are also in the Central Library about 35,000 separate manuscripts and about 150 volumes of manuscript books, more than 200 atlases, about 10,000 maps, and nearly 30,000 photographs, prints, engravings and other pictures. Each branch, also, has its own collection of photographs and pictures, varying in number from 1,000 to 2,000, in all about 13,000. The catalogues of the entire collection comprise 3,436,490 separate cards, and the cases containing them would extend about five-sixths of a mile. Nineteen different card catalogues, containing 2,977,790 cards are required for the public use of the Central Library, and 15 separate card catalogues, containing 434,400 cards are required in the different branches and reading-room stations. The shelving required for the books in the Central Library and branches is about 20 miles in length. There are many valuable paintings, photographs, busts of distinguished persons, and statuary, mainly, but not entirely, contained in the central building.

The aggregate commercial value of this personal property is probably not less than $3,000,000, and much of it is unique, so that if destroyed or sold it could not possibly be replaced. Thus it will be seen that the aggregate commercial value of the property, both real and personal, devoted to free public library purposes under the Boston Public Library system is not less than $7,500,000.

Approximately 40,000 volumes are bought for

the Library collection or received by gift each year. During the year ending January 31, 1911, the number was 43,319. Of these, 27,503 were purchased and 12,458 were given to the Library, and the remainder were acquired by exchange, by the binding of periodicals into volumes, etc. There were 13,906 volumes purchased for the Central Library, and 13,597 for the branch libraries and reading-room stations. The total amount expended for library material during this year, including $6,880.77 for periodicals and $2,064.82 for newspapers, was $50,922.67; or nearly 14 per cent of the entire expenses of the Library for all purposes. The average cost of all books purchased was $1.52 per volume. Of these 17,162 were bought from money appropriated by the City at an average cost of $1.36 a volume, and 9,421 were bought with the income of Trust Funds at an average cost of $1.82 a volume.

Books are purchased only by vote of the Trustees, and at prices fixed by the vote. The titles of the books recommended for purchase by the Librarian are put upon cards and submitted to a Committee of two of the Trustees weekly. A list of the titles and prices of books which that Committee recommends for purchase is then made, and copies of it sent to each of the Trustees at least two days before their weekly meeting. It is formally presented by the Librarian at this meeting, held over until the next subsequent meeting, and, finally, as revised and voted by the Trustees is sent to the Ordering Department as authority for the purchase of the books.

Duplicate bills of the books are required to be sent to that department with the books; one bill is filed at the City Hall, as required by law, and the other entered by the Ordering Department in its bill book, with the entry date and alphabetical designation recorded on the bill and also on the reverse of the title-page of each book charged in the bill. By means of these duplicate entries the book can always be traced from the bill and the bill from the book. The volume is afterward examined, page by page and plate by plate, to see if it is perfect, the book-plate of the Library pasted in, the original card upon which its title was written placed in the book, and it is then sent to the Catalogue Department. This bill is certified by the Ordering Department as correct and sent to the Library Auditor, by whom it is compared with the list and price authorized by the vote of the Trustees. The bill is then entered and audited for payment, and finally returned to the Ordering Department, where it receives a file number and remains on file.

The regular library staff, so-called, that is, the persons employed in the direct administration of the Library, consists of 220 persons. The service requirements are in three grades as to educational qualifications, and eligibility for appointment is determined by competitive examinations. The lowest grade, which includes a comparatively small number of pages, sub-assistants, etc., requires a training equivalent to a grammar school course. The middle grade requires qualifications equivalent to a high

school training and familiarity with one foreign language. The third grade, including about 77 staff positions, requires qualifications equivalent to those obtained by a college course, and familiarity with at least two foreign languages. The proper cataloguing and classifying of books and the reference work necessary to aid those who use the Library, requires in many positions much higher qualifications than those which can be obtained by the ordinary college course.

For the Sunday and evening service 44 places must now be filled in the Central Library, and 38 places in the branches, requiring the employment of 171 persons. Much of this service is performed by persons employed from outside the regular library force, who are paid by the hour for actual service, according to a schedule of positions and rates authorized by the Trustees.

The Central Library and the branches are opened at nine o'clock in the morning. The reading-room stations open in the afternoon at varying hours. The service continues until 10 o'clock at night at the central library building and at the West End Branch, and until nine at the other branches and reading-room stations, except during the summer months. During June, July, August and September the Central Library and West End Branch are closed at nine o'clock. The other branches and the reading-room stations during a shorter period close earlier than in winter, but at varying hours. The Central Library is in operation 119 days of 12 hours

each, and 240 days of 13 hours each, making an agrgegate of 359 days, or 4,548 hours, during each 12 months.

The general work of the Library is carried on by means of a departmental organization, comprising the following: Executive Department, including the Librarian, Assistant Librarian, Auditor, Clerk, Custodian of the Stock-room, etc.; Catalogue Department, including the Chief Cataloguer and assistants; Ordering Department; Shelf Department; Bates Hall, including the Custodian and assistants in connection with the public catalogue and reference desks, and the Centre desk with its attendants; the Special Libraries, including also all persons employed in the Department of Fine Arts, the Allen A. Brown Music Room and the Barton Room; Statistical Department, including documents and manuscripts; Periodical and Newspaper Rooms; Patent Department; Issue Department; Children's Rooms; and the Registration Department, which registers card holders entitled to take out books for home use. All these are in the Central Library, and in addition to these there is in the central library building the Branch Department, in charge of the Supervisor of Branches and Reading Rooms, who, under the Librarian, has supervision of the details of operating the branches and reading-room stations individually and in connection with the Central Library. Each of the 12 branches has a custodian in charge of the work of that branch, with necessary assistants, and in most cases a janitor to care for the

premises; and each of the 17 reading-room stations has a custodian in charge of its work.

The Printing and Binding Departments are located at 42 Stanhope Street, near the Central Library, and are operated in the same manner as the best private establishments in these lines. In the Printing Department, employing seven persons, about 200,000 catalogue cards, 500,000 forms, nearly 2,000,000 call slips for the use of books, and the various weekly lists of new books, quarterly bulletins, finding lists, and other publications, amounting annually to about 70,000 copies, are printed for public distribution. In the library bindery, employing 29 persons, photographs and engravings are mounted, volumes repaired, periodicals stitched, library publications prepared for use, and nearly 40,000 volumes annually bound.

In each department throughout the library system a time-register is kept, by means of which is recorded each day the exact time of arrival on duty of each employee, and absences from duty during service hours are also recorded.

The mere obtaining and delivering of a book for a reader in the Bates Hall Reading Room of the Central Library requires the intelligent and accurate service of six different persons, if the book is in its proper place in the stacks. The return of the book to its place requires the service of four persons. The obtaining and delivering to a card holder of a book for home use requires the services of four persons, and the return of the book to its place requires also

the services of four persons. The proper operation of the Library therefore requires rapid and efficient personal service, together with the perfect adjustment of the series of ingenious mechanical devices included in the book carrier system.

The efficient administration of the Library also largely depends upon the operation of the Central Library and the branches as a unit. If each branch were maintained as an independent library, its work, though important, would be of very much less public benefit than when coördinated with that of the Central Library. If a person using any one of the branches desires a book which is in the Central Library but which is not in the branch collection, application is made from the branch library to the Central and the book is sent to the branch. The same service is rendered at the reading-room stations.

This involves transportation by means of delivery wagons. Such wagons ply regularly between the Central Library and the various branches and stations, and they are also used for the transportation of books sent on deposit to engine houses, to public institutions, and to the public and parochial schools. Nearly 11,000 books are sent each month to the branches from the Central Library upon individual applications made at the branches, and more than 3,000 volumes are sent each month on deposit to the various reading-room stations.

During each year, besides these books sent to the 28 branches and reading-room stations, the Library supplies about 46 engine houses, 31 institu-

tions, and 108 public and parochial schools, and thus sends out an average of about 400 volumes every day by its delivery wagons. In addition to this the branches themselves and two of the largest reading-room stations are sending out each year more than 16,000 volumes, distributed among 124 places, of which more than 12,000 are sent to schools. That is to say, not only is the collection of the Central Library used as a reservoir from which books may be drawn for use in the branches and reading-room stations, but each of the branches and stations is in itself a reservoir from which books are drawn for use at institutions and by teachers in schools in its immediate vicinity. More than 360 teachers are supplied with books for use in their work, and the entire circulation through schools and institutions from the Central Library and branches amounts to 160,000 volumes annually.

Not only books but large numbers of photographs and pictures of different kinds are issued mainly for use in schools in connection with the work of the teachers. These are sent out from the Central Library to the branches, and also from the branches to the teachers in their vicinity, in portfolios, each containing about 25 pictures, which after use by the teachers are returned. The collections consist of illustrations of fine arts, physical and commercial geography, colored views of all countries, types of peoples, industries, transportation, etc. About 10,000 pictures from the branch collections are annually lent to the reading-room stations and to

schools and study clubs, and the Fine Arts Department of the Central Library also sends out each year nearly 700 portfolios of pictures to the schools.

In addition to this coöperation in the work of the schools, the Library provides upon request selected lists of books desired by teachers to aid them in their work. In a recent month, 30 requests by teachers for books were received at the Central Library, accompanied by lists of the books desired, varying in number from four to 239 volumes, and 29 similar requests were received where the teacher gave only the subject upon which books were desired. Assistance is also constantly given to large numbers of children and others who request books relating to the subjects upon which they are engaged in study.

There are annually issued for direct home use nearly 300,000 volumes from the Central Library, and from the Central Library through the branches about 75,000 more, while the branches and reading-room stations also issue more than 1,150,000 volumes for home use, making the entire issue for home use more than 1,500,000 annually. The use of the Library for general reference and study is so unrestricted that no accurate statistics of it can be given. Its extent, however, is shown by the fact that during the year about 500,000 call slips for the table use of books in Bates Hall alone are necessary. The daily use of books and other library material in the Central Library and in the branches is doubtless many times greater than the home use of books drawn out upon cards.

The Newspaper Room at the Central Library contains 334 different papers filed for current reading of which 266 are in the English language, 16 French, 15 German, seven Italian, seven Spanish, seven Swedish, and the rest in 14 other languages, including one in Old Hebrew, published in Jerusalem, and one in Tagalese and English, published in the Philippines, also Greek, Russian, Armenian, Polish, Welsh, Hungarian, etc. One paper, at least, from every civilized nation, when obtainable, and at least two papers from every state in the Union, are taken. Among them are papers from Buenos Ayres, Rio de Janeiro, Valparaiso, Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, Cape Town, Alexandria, Yokohama, Shanghai, Bombay, Calcutta, Hawaii, the Philippines, Cuba, and Porto Rico. Fourteen papers are taken from Canada and 60 from Massachusetts. The Boston papers comprise one in Lettish, three in German, one in Italian, one in Swedish, and all the English dailies and weeklies. The Boston papers and also the leading papers from other places are bound and preserved in newspaper files which now include 6,514 bound volumes which are much used. During the last year about 21,000 newspaper volumes from the files were consulted by readers.

In the Periodical Room at the Central Library 1,538 different periodicals are regularly filed for use, besides 183 in the Statistical, Music, Patent, and Fine Arts Departments and in the Children's Room, making with the 88 taken at the branches,

1,809 in all. These include all the leading periodicals of the world in every department of literature and science and in almost every language, all of which find constant readers. Frenchmen, Germans, Russians, Italians, Spaniards, Poles, Greeks and Scandinavians are among the readers who regularly come to the Periodical Room as the current numbers of the periodicals are received, and workmen of various trades find at the Central Library trade journals which are not accessible to them elsewhere.

The Periodical Room is usually filled with readers, and the bound files of periodicals are also extensively used, especially by students from colleges and other educational institutions in the vicinity. Four hundred and seventy-seven different volumes were recently consulted in one day by students from a single college, and requests for information from bound volumes of periodicals, made to the attendant in charge of the room, cover a very wide range of subjects. Of the periodicals taken at the different branches, the largest number, 66, may be found at the West End Branch, and the smallest, 12, at the Orient Heights Reading Room.

There is another work performed by the Public Library, which, although not extensive, is nevertheless important, namely its participation in what are called inter-library loans. It frequently happens that a person in another city or town desires a book which his local library does not contain, but which may be found in the Boston Public Library. In that case, if the local library makes application to the

Boston Library the book is lent to it under conditions providing for the care and return of the volume. In this way there were lent to libraries in Massachusetts during the year 1910 about 900 volumes, all of which were safely returned; and there were also lent to libraries outside the State about 80 volumes. On the other hand, by a reciprocal arrangement, a borrower in Boston may obtain from other libraries books which the Boston Library does not possess; although the balance is very largely in favor of the outside libraries, since only a small number of books are borrowed of them by the Boston Library for use by readers here.

When the Central Library was opened in its new building in 1895 the rare books, engravings and other treasures of the Library which had been before inaccessible to the public, were placed upon exhibition in the Fine Arts Room from time to time. Exhibitions of this character are now systematized and lists of them published at the beginning of the winter season in connection with the lists of lectures. The exhibitions of pictures are mainly arranged to illustrate the library lectures, but other lecture courses, particularly those of the Lowell Institute, are also illustrated here when practicable, and events of artistic, historical, or national importance are frequently noticed by appropriate exhibitions of illustrative material. Sometimes the exhibitions have been enlarged by material lent by friends of the Library, as, for example, Issues of the Kelmscott Press, Portraits of George Washington, Bookplates

by Boston artists, Prayer Books, a collection of Valentines, Fine Book Bindings, etc.

Among the important historical exhibitions in recent years may be mentioned those in celebration of the anniversaries of Sebastian Cabot, Americus Vespucius, Hans Holbein, William Lloyd Garrison, Longfellow, Milton, and the Transfer of the Bradford Manuscript; and among important events illustrated, the death of Pope Leo XIII., the coronation of Edward VII., the War with Spain, the visits to Boston by Admiral Dewey, by Prince Henry of Prussia, and by General Kuroki of Japan, also various noteworthy local conventions and celebrations.

Exhibitions of pictures are also regularly held at the branches and reading-room stations, the programmes being published in the quarterly bulletin. The pictures are mainly furnished from the Central Library. They are designed to illustrate matters which are of immediate general interest to the public.

Public lectures, usually illustrated by the stereopticon, are given in the Lecture Hall of the Library every week from November to April, admission to which is free to all, and for which no compensation is paid to the persons who lecture. These lectures are usually upon subjects connected with the fine arts, or have especial relation to the æsthetic improvement of cities, the artistic development of printing, etc. Courses have also been given on Civic Art, the Resources of the Library, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the three Museums at Harvard College, by the

Curators of each, the Harvard College Library by its Librarian, Library of Congress, etc. Among the lecturers have been Charles W. Eliot, Thomas W. Higginson, Edward Everett Hale, A. Lawrence Lowell, William Everett, and many of the leading Boston architects.

Virtually all the money which the Trustees can use for the maintenance and operation of the library system comes out of the tax levy from the annual appropriation by the City Council. The income from Trust Funds, that is, property given to the Trustees in trust for the uses of the Library, amounts to about $16,000 a year. January 31, 1911, $440,350 of these Trust Funds was invested in City bonds. Of this $10,500 bore three per cent interest; $202,400 three and a half per cent, and $227,450 four per cent. The income received from them in 1910 was $16,497. The expenditure of this income is restricted to the specific purposes of the several trusts from which it is derived, and these vary widely, as shown by the table, pages 165, 166, *ante*.

The appropriations by the City Council are made upon detailed estimates annually submitted by the Trustees to the Mayor, of the amount required for the work of the Library during the next financial year. These estimates are shown in comparison with the amounts expended in the previous year for each item, for instance, for fuel, postage, salaries, printing, supplies, etc., with a specific note of any increase or decrease in the estimated requirements. The estimates are transmitted to the City Council by the

Mayor with his recommendation as to the total amount which should be appropriated, and after consideration by the Council the appropriation finally determined upon is made. During the ten years, 1901–1910, the estimates of the Trustees, the recommendations by the Mayor, and the amounts appropriated by the City Council have been as follows:

	ESTIMATES OF TRUSTEES.	AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR.	AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED BY CITY COUNCIL.
1901 . .	$291,713.65	$300,000.00	$302,000.00
1902 . .	310,144.67	305,000.00	300,000.00
1903 . .	318,383.10	305,500.00	305,500.00
1904 . .	320,414.00	300,000.00	305,000.00
1905 . .	325,465.00	310,000.00	310,000.00
1906 . .	324,550.00	320,000.00	324,550.00
1907 . .	326,100.00	325,000.00	325,000.00
1908 . .	332,800.00	325,000.00	310,000.00
1909 . .	335,200.00	335,200.00	349,455.00
1910 . .	351,978.00	351,978.00	351,978.00

The principal increase in the expense of the administration of the Library since 1901 has been caused by the establishment of reading-room stations and delivery stations, now in every case transformed into reading rooms, in different parts of the City, by means of which the people in outlying districts have the collections of the Central Library brought near to them, and may receive books therefrom, without the necessity of coming to the central

library building in Copley Square. The work of the branches and reading rooms, including important work with the schools of the City, is of much benefit to the various parts of the City in which they are located, and promotes the convenience of the public in its use of the Library.

The Library has no revenue of its own. It has, however, certain receipts which, in the fiscal year ending January 31, 1911, were as follows:

From fines	$5,516.65
From sales of catalogues, etc.	71.87
From telephone commissions	167.57
From sales of waste	163.81
From payments for lost books	383.82
From money found in the Library	2.36
Total	$6,306.08

Books are issued for home use either for seven or 14 days. In order to secure their return within that time a fine of two cents a day is imposed after the expiration of the time, to be paid by the card holder before any more books are issued upon the card. The approximate number of persons paying such fines during the year 1910 was 61,494, who paid an average per person of 8.9 cents, amounting in the aggregate, as shown above, to $5,516.65. This sum, with the other receipts, was paid into the City Treasury, as required by law. The amount received for lost books, being received only to re-

place library property, is, after its payment into the City Treasury, added to the appropriation for library maintenance.

No supplies are purchased or repairs made without vote of the Trustees. At each weekly meeting the Librarian submits a list of requirements which, upon examination and revision, is authorized by vote of the Trustees, and then transmitted to the Library Auditor. All orders for such supplies or repairs are given in writing, signed by the Librarian, and numbered to correspond with a stub record, upon which is noted the date of the list authorized by the Trustees on which the item appears, and the number of the item on that list. Bills rendered are checked up from the stub record, and the receipt of the goods or the completion of the repairs is certified by the head of the department to which the goods are delivered, or in which the work is done; or if the supplies are to be kept in stock their receipt is certified by the custodian of the stock room. The bill is then sent to the Library Auditor, who certifies it as correctly computed. It is afterward endorsed by the Librarian, presented to the Trustees, and its payment authorized by their vote. A requisition is then drawn by the Library Auditor upon the City Auditor for the payment, and this requisition is signed by the President of the Trustees, and attested by the Clerk of the Corporation.

Supplies are disbursed from the stock room only upon requisition by the head of each department for which any supply is needed, which must

be approved by the Librarian. The order is then filled by the custodian of the stock room, who keeps a record showing all purchases, from whom purchased, amount paid, and the distribution by day, month and year to the several departments of the Library. At the end of each year he submits to the Librarian a summary account showing under each department the amount and cost of the supplies furnished to it, itemized under the several articles. The originals of all contracts made are filed with the City Auditor, and a duplicate copy with the Library Auditor, and in accordance with the provisions of a law of the State a copy of each contract is also deposited in the office of the City Clerk.

The employees in the Binding and Printing Departments are paid trade union wages and work trade union hours. All other employees who are classed either as "laborers, workmen or mechanics" are employed at the wages prevailing in their respective employments and for the number of working hours fixed by the State law applicable to cities which, like Boston, have accepted its provisions; for example, "not more than eight hours in any one calendar day."

The other employees of the Library, constituting the regular library staff, are paid salaries fixed by vote of the Trustees. The average compensation of all these persons, including the Librarian, Assistant Librarian and Heads of Departments, under the salary schedule in force January 31, 1911, is $719.43 annually, the average of all the males

being $903.66 and of the females $630.45 a year. Excluding the Librarian, Assistant Librarian and ten other persons employed as Heads of Departments, the average salary paid to the remaining 208 persons is $628.57 a year. Of these 208 persons, 61 are males who receive the average salary of $646.03 a year, and 147 are females who receive the average salary of $621.21 a year. The Custodians of the principal branches are all women, and the salary fixed for the position is $1,000 a year.

A vacation without loss of pay is allowed to each employee of the regular library staff of two days in each month, or 24 days for each full year's service. A vacation of two weeks is allowed to all other employees. Otherwise no person is paid while not actually on duty, except by special vote of the Trustees in an occasional case of extreme hardship from sickness. No person is added to the regular pay-roll, nor is the salary of any employee on the pay-roll increased, without a specific vote of the Trustees in the form of an order in each case, an attested copy of which is filed with the City Auditor.

The following regular reports and official statements are made relating to the administration of the Library:

1. A monthly report is made to the Mayor showing the receipts and expenditures for the current month.

2. A complete statement must be made to the Mayor, for printing in a report issued May 1st in

each year, showing the name, residence, rate of salary or wage and the kind of work done by each employee.

3. An annual report is made by the Trustees to the Mayor, and with this are incorporated the reports of the Librarian and Library Auditor showing in detail the condition and operations of the Library for the year, and also the report of the Examining Committee. This annual report is printed and publicly circulated, sent to the press and to other libraries.

4. The weekly pay-rolls are made in duplicate, showing the name of each person employed, the character of the service performed, the rate of salary or wage, and the amount payable to every such person for the week. These are prepared and signed by the Library Auditor, and after the approval attested by signature of the Librarian, must be signed and sworn to by the President of the Trustees. Each set of rolls requires nineteen large sheets. They are sent to the State Civil Service Commission, and its certification of approval affixed, after which one set is sent to the City Auditor as the warrant for the weekly payment of the employees, and the duplicate set is filed in the office of the State Commission.

5. Besides these regular reports and statements others are made from time to time as requested by the Mayor or other officials entitled to receive them.

6. The bulletins, weekly lists of books added

to the Library, special finding lists issued from time to time, and other library publications also give information as to the work of the Library.

The contrast between the Library as it now exists and the small institution opened in Mason Street in 1852 is sufficiently shown by this account of its present condition. The written record of the years during which this development has proceeded is easily transferred to the printed page, but the unwritten record, equally important, is not so readily compiled. The Library, at every stage of its progress, has merited, as it has received, liberal public support, and it has always been an object of justifiable civic pride. But its unwritten record, — the story of the inspiration which has come to young readers through the books it has provided, of the help it has given to scholars and others who have shared its advantages, or to those who, through the opportunities it has offered, have acquired greater technical skill and intellectual power, thus becoming of greater usefulness as citizens; the account of the civic benefits which indirectly it has conferred upon the City; and, by no means least, an adequate statement of the instances of pure enjoyment and recreation it has provided for thousands, — these cannot easily be shown in type. What has been done, however, written and unwritten alike, is but indicative of what may be accomplished hereafter, as the Library passes from the vantage ground of present performance toward broader fields of usefulness, under the changing conditions of the second half-century of its life.

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